

Cambridge Mill Road: a Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

Many of these stories were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014. They are supplemented by some selections 'From our Old Files' published in the Cambridge Independent Press and other notes.

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at bit.ly/CambsCollection

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the 1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2016

Mill Road Scrapbook

1897 02 01

Propose new GER station – present station dangerous, extension to Mill Road, Coldham's Common site proposed, Hyde Park Corner possible p3

1897 05 17

Mill Road library opening, p2

1897 05 27

Mill Road sale property, p2

1897 07 23 c

The annual show in connection with the Mill Road, Barnwell and New Town Amateur Gardeners' Association has long been one of the most popular attractions of the summer months. The competition in vegetables was keen among the cottagers' classes. As for amusement at first- class bill of fare was provided for the holiday-makers who began to stream into the building later on in the day

1897 11 10

Sir - I should like to ask my fellow ratepayers, more especially those living in the vicinity of Mill Road, Cambridge, which is more important to them – the improvement of the Guildhall, which I understand to cost £40,000, or the stinking condition of the Mill road sewers, which has for its vent the manholes. From two of them, especially the Petersfield one, the stench on Sunday was enough to breed an epidemic. How long are we to stand this sort of business? - James Plant

1897 12 20

There is no more handsome piece of furniture in a house than a pianoforte. Thanks to keen competition the prices generally are but little more than those of 10 years ago and today pianofortes are within reach of the majority of working men. But if you feel you cannot afford a new one, go to 14, Mill Road, Cambridge, where Mr H. Leavis conducts his business and get a second-hand one. He keeps organs and harmoniums in stock at as low a figure as £3, and you can obtain a capital pianoforte for the moderate outlay of £5

1898 04 13

Mr Dixon said that Mill Road cemetery was always locked up on Sundays, because, if not, swarms of little children rampaged about over the graves; and while he was conducting a funeral it was very annoying to have some little urchins come up and say, "Oh, my! Ain't that a little coffin!" The children jumped about over the graves, while labourers going to work made the cemetery a thoroughfare. The matter was giving the committee a great deal of trouble.

1898 10 05

The annual report of the Cambridge public Free Library has been issued. Under competent management and the able direction of Mr Pink, it has continuously added to its resources. It is now as well equipped as anyone could desire. It has a reference library and in the Shakespeare and dramatic collections a special features of great interest and real value. Moreover there is the branch library at Mill road with 6,600 volumes and during the past year reading rooms have been opened at East road and Castle end. The people who enjoy these facilities of access to the best literature may well be envied by those who do not

1898 10 19

Sir - for many years I have constantly visited the Mill road cemetery, Cambridge, and feel quite certain that if the present cemetery were made into a general and open place of burial it would last for many years. When the time arrives to provide a new cemetery, why not use that which is situated on the Huntingdon Road, which has a field adjoining sufficient to make a very large cemetery. I know

that the Castle End hill is an obstacle, but an extra horse could be used to assist in drawing the hearse over this spot. This would be far preferable to going through Barnwell – R.R.

1898 10 24

The normal quiet of Cambridge was interrupted by serious conflagration in Fitzroy Street which proved the most destructive to property that has occurred for many years. Cambridge is happily furnished with ample means of notifying outbreaks of fire, and it was through one of the electric alarms erected in various parts of the borough for immediate communication with the central fire station that the resident night watchman received an intimation that a fire was in progress. Telegraphic communications were without delay dispatched to the competent director of the Volunteer Fire Brigade and the majority of the corps. The wires running to those residing in and about Mill Road were unfortunately out of order, and seven of the willing firemen were therefore debarred from taking an early part in the work

1898 10 27

The population of the town of Cambridge has increased very much during the past 10 years, especially in the Petersfield and Romsey town area. Up till 10 years ago the chancel of the present St Barnabas Church was the only place of worship in the extensive district. Mainly by reason of the enterprise of Mr Sturton in providing land for building purposes, the district became so large that it became necessary to carry out the building of the complete Church; this was done in 1887.

1889 12 2-

The substitution by the Great Eastern Railway Company of a handsome bridge for the old level crossing in Mill Road gave a great impetus to building in what is now Romsey town and the church of ease of St Phillip's was established. Now the time has come for Romsey town to be raised to the status of an ecclesiastical Parish, with St Phillip's as the parish church 1889 12 2-

1899 01 09

Owing to the mildness of the season, Mr Lewis of Mill Road, Cambridge, is offering a thousand overcoats at half their original price, so that no one need be without warm clothing this Christmas time

1899 01 09

Joseph Redfarn, butcher of Mill Road, Cambridge stated he was walking by a shop in Gwydir Street. He saw a row of foot baths and pails standing in the gutter and on the roadway. About an hour afterwards he repassed the shop in a trap. The sun was shining on the pails and caused the horse he was driving to shy. The animal then went on to the path and fell, breaking the shaft off the cart. The defendant said one of his assistants put some pails and baths outside the front of the shop for the purpose of loading them on the van which was going out to the country. Another quantity of galvanised goods were bought to his shop by a G.N.R van

1899 06 02

The custodian of the Mill Road cemetery, Cambridge, Thomas Stanbridge, said he saw the defendants approaching with a handcart containing a headstone. There was a funeral taking place against the entrance gate so endeavoured to prevent them from entering the cemetery. In so doing he was pushed right under one of the coaches attending the funeral and got his leg fixed between the wheel and a headstone. He called out and the people at the funeral were disturbed by his remarks. Then the defendant stuck him under the chin, and threatened to pull his beard out.

1899 09 26

There are some who deplore it very much that the Free Library readers should resort so much to fiction. There can be no greater waste of time than the reading of novels that are not worth reading. At the Central Library there were issued during the year 67,661 volumes in the class of fiction and it must be admitted that Cambridge might with advantage become a little more serious in its reading. At

the Mill Road branch 293 borrowers were added whereby it is made clear that the branch supplies a very real demand.

1899 12 06

Two impudent burglaries were committed in Mill Road, Cambridge. The premises occupied by Mrs Emma Coleman, confectioner, and the Danish Dairy Company's shop were broken into, but fortunately the nocturnal visitors carried away but little booty as the result of their efforts. Each of the door bear muddy scratches leaving no doubt that the burglar must have been agile and diminutive enough to squeeze in through the limited space afforded by the open fanlight. In his descent from the fanlight the burglar knocked down a row of jellies, but the thief was of an orderly turn of mind for they were all picked up and neatly stacked on the counter

1899 12 23

While making excavations at the junction of City Road and Fitzroy Street some workmen in the employ of the Cambridge Electric Lighting Company came upon some gruesome remains. They dug up some coffins. It is supposed the site is that of the old burial ground of Eden Street chapel. The remains were removed to Mill Road cemetery, where they were interred. For some reason efforts are being made to prevent the real facts becoming known. The employees of the Electric Light jealously guard what they deem an important secret, and refuse to give any details.

1900 01 22

Mr G.W. Rawlinson of Mill Road, Cambridge has received a letter from Private Caswell, who is well known in the town. He writes: "at daybreak we attacked the Boers who were holding a low-lying hill from which they poured a very severe fire. We kept steadily on till we were within 100 yards of them, when we fixed bayonets and charged them. In retiring they had to cross a valley. We poured volley after volley into them with deadly effect. Later I was struck on the ankle by a shell which did not burst and which has made me an invalid for a fortnight

1900 04 21

A serious bus accident happened in Mill Road, Cambridge. The omnibus was waiting for passengers opposite the Royal Standard public house and while the driver was talking on the path, the horses for some unknown reason bolted. The driver and conductor immediately ran after the horses, but were unable to catch them. Two passengers named Annie & Frances Scull, who were on the top of the 'bus jumped off. When the bus was about to pass the Durham Ox it collided with a market cart belonging to Jonas Wilmott, carrier of Orwell and then another cart in charge of Eli Newman, a hawker, of Bottisham

1900 04 23

A fishmonger of Mill Road, Cambridge, told the bankruptcy court he had started business in 1887 in King Street without any capital. He also traded as a vinegar dealer. He had done some betting and made a small "book". He had not kept accounts, had gambled, had traded when he knew he was insolvent, and had incurred debts when he had no prospect of paying them. It was a very unsatisfactory business altogether

1900 05 14

The extensive Portland Cement Works which are being erected in the neighbourhood of Coldham's Lane and Mill Road are now assuming enormous dimensions; in fact the buildings already completed are ample evidence that one of the largest and most modern cement works in England will be situated near Cambridge. The celebrated gun-makers, Messrs Krupp of Essen, are supplying most of the extensive machinery for the company and a cement will be manufactured that conforms to the specifications of the Board of Admiralty and the London County Council

1900 07 13

Mill Road library, p2

1900 09 28

Cambridge magistrates received a petition against renewal of the licence of the Windmill public house in Mill Road. Frederick Hodson considered the neighbourhood was overcrowded with them. Mr Papworth said he had visited the house on many occasions but never seen more than two people at the bar at a time. Freeman & Sons, brewers and owners said the house was in a bad state and had been closed for repairs, not because there was no trade. They had no right to take away the licence even if the tenant only sold a barrel of beer a week. Albert Brand, the new tenant said business had trebled, 60 people patronised the house every day and last Saturday he had upwards of 100 customers. The licence was not renewed

1900 10 19

An appeal was heard against the refusal to grant a licence to the Windmill public house in Mill Road, Cambridge. It had good stabling and in fact was the only public house with stabling. It had been licensed since 1835 and had been thoroughly renovated. It was a labourer's house in a neighbourhood of labourers. A petition signed by 112 residents was opposed to the licence but another signed by 230 was in favour. The decision was reversed and the licence renewed

1900 11 17

Fire Mill Road shop

1901 07 15

Cricketers will learn with much regret at the death at his residence, Mill Road, Cambridge, of the veteran cricketer and umpire, Bob Carpenter. He was 27 when he played in his first match at Lord's for the United England XI. A powerful hitter, his favourite stroke was to square leg. Playing for Cambridgeshire against Surrey in 1861 he made an innings of 100 described as "probably the greatest display of batting the world has ever seen". He played regularly for England in company with two other Cambridgeshire cricketers 'Pepper' Tarrant and Tom Hayward

1901 09 24

The Infectious Diseases Hospital, long known as the Sanatorium, in Mill Road, Cambridge is at the centre of the system under which all cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria, typhoid fever and small-pox are notified and wherever isolation at home is difficult the patient is removed for treatment to the hospital. Although Romsey Town has encroached extensively upon what not very long ago were open fields, the Sanatorium is still upon the verge of the country. From the grounds the view of a fine expanse of rural scenery is commanded; the air is fresh and invigorating. There is a large field behind and in this the new diphtheria block has been erected.

1901 11 05

A fruitless burglary was committed at the Mill Road branch of the Cambridge Co-operative Society. The object was obviously cash but they were scantily repaid for their trouble, because on Saturday evening the money is cleared and lodged in the strong room of the central stores in Burleigh Street. The manager noticed the disarrangement of some sugar bags, which had been left ready for the weighing up of sugar. A steel for sharpening knives had been used in breaking open the till. The back door was unfastened but nothing is missing, the thieves preferring not to take away goods which might have been identified.

1901 11 25

The funeral of Mr C.F.G. Stanhope, who was better known by the stage name of Mr Charles Gervase, under which he played the part of Harry Bronson in Mr W. Greet's "Belle of New York" Company, took place at Mill Road Cemetery. The deceased actor contracted typhoid fever whilst at Cambridge and died at Addenbrooke's Hospital. The internment took place in the presence of a large number of persons who showed deep sympathy with the mourners.

1902 02 25

Advert. New Year's Register. Sales & approximate price. Residences: De Freville Avenue £350, Guest Road £400; Mill Road £425, Hartington Grove £425, Malta Road £425, Huntingdon Road £450; Villas, Cherryhinton Road with land £850; modern town residences £1,000; terrace near Mill Road, (let for £100) £2,000; Country residence about 3½ acres, near station G.N.R. £2,000

1902 03 19

A regrettable occurrence took place in Mill Road, Cambridge; beasts from Kingston were being driven to the slaughterhouse in Tenison Road when one bullock became excited. It ran away near Donkey common and charged a twelve-year old girl, tossing her as high as the top of a street lamp. Miraculously no bones were broken but there are slight internal injuries.

1902 04 22 c

Sir – may I call attention to an almost intolerable nuisance that maintains on Mill Road, Cambridge. The shopkeepers are in the habit of sweeping the refuse from their establishments into the streets (especially on Saturday night) with the result that dirty paper is blown about the streets and into the gardens of private houses. It is most objectionable and annoying to have one's gardens and yards filled with rubbish of this description. Is it not an offence against the bye-laws? – Resident

1902 05 10

The funeral of P.C. Thompson of the Cambridge police was conducted on military lines. His comrades, accompanied by members of the Borough Fire Brigade, marched to Sturton Street. As the coffin was brought out of the house the police band played the death march in "Saul" and Drum Major Inspector Johnson, his staff draped with crepe, led the hearse & mourning coaches in procession to Mill Road cemetery. The route was lined by people and many were the manifestations of sympathy with the mourners. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr Ellis Merry

1902 06 12

On 13th June 1889 the foundation stone of St Philip's Church, Mill Road, Cambridge, was laid by Professor Babington; on June 11th 1902 it was consecrated by the Bishop to the worship of God and "for ever set apart from all profane and common uses". A small wooden church was built by a pious, but somewhat eccentric Churchman, which was eventually to give place to the present building. It is a chapel-of-ease to the populous parish which ere long may be a distinct ecclesiastical parish.

1902 07 25

P.C. Savidge said he was walking along Mill Road, Cambridge and noticed a motor-car which appeared to have been on fire outside Mr Storey's shop. A number of boys were looking at it and a three-year-old boy was on the path near the motor car. Defendant came out of a shop and deliberately kicked the boy with such force that he was lifted off the ground. The man said there were parts of the car liable to injury if meddled with by inexperienced hands. A number of boys were "pulling it about the whole afternoon". Time after time he warned them away and had "cuffed" two or three boys. The youngsters were a perfect pest in Mill Road and he considered the charge ridiculous. There was no doubt defendant lost his temper and he was fined £2

Mill Road flower show, p3

1902 09 16 c

Sir – Many people have felt genuine concern at the announcement that the Cambridge Omnibus Company is to be "wound up". Huntingdon Road, Old and New Chesterton, Mill Road and the rapidly growing suburb of New Cherryhinton have all benefited by its service. It is regretted that in spite of the hundred the Company has conveyed daily, the venture does not pay. Their difficulty is the Tram Company's opportunity and they should arrange for a good suburban service of 'buses to run in conjunction with their cars – New Cherryhinton

1902 10 02

In the centre of Cambridge a man will pay any price in reason for the tobacco which appeals most to his palate. But in other quarters, such as Mill Road where the small shopkeeper thrives and people like a lot for their money a great quantity of cigarette packets containing showy photographs and alluring coupons have been sold. Mr Banyard of East Road, Cambridge says customers gave over their regular brands for those with the coupons but the demand was chiefly in cheap cigarettes. But Cambridge undergraduates have not descended to packs of Tabs, or even to tu-penny-ha'-penny Guinea Gold.

1903 03 09

A dangerous outbreak of fire occurred at 245 Mill Road, Cambridge when a lighted standard lamp was accidentally knocked over by a child. The contents of the lamp spilled upon the floor and became ignited near to the windows. Before the flames were extinguished the curtains, Venetian blinds and several articles of furniture were destroyed and a carpet and table cover badly damaged. News of the fire was received through the Mill Road fire alarm post but when firemen arrived at the scene with the horsed fire escape and tender the fire had been extinguished.

1903 07 28

Sir - An exciting scene occurred at 11.30 pm when the small-pox hearse was just reaching its destination and turning round previous to receiving the body of a young man who had died that morning. The night was very dark and the hearse overturned on its side, the smashing of glass and the bumping of the vehicle on the road causing a great commotion. After some delay it was righted again, the body duly deposited inside and it rumbled and groaned off to the cemetery, grating on the road with its iron-shod wheels in the dead of the night in a most unpleasant manner. Any private firm would have an india-rubber tyred vehicle for such work but Cambridge Corporation have apparently yet to discover that such 'luxuries' exist - 'Mill Road'

1903 08 19

Sir - last evening I met three horses running loose and apparently unattended along Mill Road, Cambridge. Some distance behind them two men were being dragged along by a young horse which they were evidently trying to 'break in'. Carts, cycles and other users of the road overtaking them had to slow down until they could dash past & foot passengers had to seek safety in doorways. I have also frequently met in St Andrew's Street a high-spirited, high-stepping horse being led by a single rein about 20 feet long, the other end being held by a man on a bicycle! These things ought not to be allowed in our streets - Citizen

1903 11 21

A growing demand for the stone, marble and granite objects with which the memory of the dead are perpetuated indicates an expansion of business for those who provide these melancholy tokens. Messrs Ivett and Reed have found their premises on Mill Road and Regent Street inadequate and have opened a new branch on Newmarket Road, appropriately near the new cemetery. The premises consist of a dwelling house and show-room and are built of Bath stone with a portico supported by two graceful Corinthian pillars. Inside is a chimney-piece of statuary marble upon which delicate-looking foliage is represented in the Italian style

1903 12 02

If the scene that attended the opening of the children's reading room at the Mill Road branch of the Cambridge Free Library can be relied upon the experiment ought to be attended with the happiest results. Within a few minutes of opening it was fully occupied by boys and girls and the demand for admittance was in excess of expectations with a large number waiting patiently outside until room could be made for them. Some had a long wait as once the children had settled down to the store of attractive books and pictures provided the employment became completely absorbing. Their clean faces and hands and well-brushed hair helped form a charming sight which their complete quietness and good behaviour rendered all the more attractive.

1903 12 03

Mill Road library opened a reading room for the exclusive benefit of children. Apart from the love of books and pictures likely to be instilled into the youthful mind there are habits of cleanliness, order & discipline. Dirty hands and faces are not permitted to enter and bad behaviour is punished by immediate expulsion. The children will be well looked after and tired mothers and weary fathers can rest with easy minds knowing their offspring are enjoying themselves without injuring either their bodies or their morals

1903 12 30

Mill Road trench collapse, p3

1904 05 18

A fire destroyed Mrs Cornell's fishmonger's shop on Mill Road, Cambridge. It was caused through the ignition of some fat used for the purpose of frying fish. Although the shop was sparsely stocked there was sufficient inflammable material in it to make it impossible to arrest the fire in its early stages, and soon the interior was a mass of flames which rapidly penetrated through the ceiling and attacked the contents of the front room on the first floor. The alarm was given by means of the Thoday Street fire alarm and the firemen arrived within twelve minutes with the horsed fire escape and tender and prevented the flames attacking adjoining premises. 1904 05 19

Cambridge cemetery committee considered whether to close the whole of the Mill Road burial ground. They had asked the various incumbents as to the number of grave spaces allotted to their parishes and whether it was possible to identify the graves of all persons buried there. It appeared to be dependent on the knowledge of the sexton and there was no way of identifying the position of each grave. There should be a public enquiry. But there were many timid widows who had husbands buried there and would like to be buried there too who would not go to an enquiry. Alderman Kett agreed: he would like his bones to be laid there and had six or seven unoccupied spaces for members of his family. What would an inspector care about such sentiments? He would be overruled by those fanatics of sanitary improvement.

1904 05 19

Mill Road cemetery, p3 *

1904 07 05

An inquiry into the proposed closure of Mill Road cemetery, Cambridge heard objections from several parishes. The All Saints portion would not be absolutely full for another 23 years and was as sanitary as any other. There were 142 spaces available for Holy Sepulchre and 120 for St Paul's parish which was strongly opposed to closure. The Rev E.C. Pearce of St Bene't's said there were 60 vaults and brick graves likely to be used again; he had never seen remains exposed when a new grave had been made. At St Edward's there had been 47 interments in the last 10 years, 23 of which were not parishioners and had no right to burial in the ground & there was space for another 120 graves. But St Michael's parish only had space for 50

1904 07 06

Mill Road cemetery, p2

1904 08 25

The Local Government Board have decided to close those parts of Mill Road cemetery which are assigned to the parishes of St Andrew the Less, St Mary the Less and St Botolph but say there is no need for the protection of public health for other areas to be closed. The three portions will be sealed while in the rest of the burial ground interments will continue as usual. This is in accordance with the deep feelings expressed at the inquiry where representatives of the other parishes had protested strongly against their grounds being closed, with the single exception of the Rev Wood who was acting in direct opposition to the wishes of his parishioners. His 'aesthetic' vapourings were appreciated by the Inspector for their true worth

1904 11 11

Cement making has already become a very important Cambridge industry. Extensive new works are rapidly approaching completion and have made a great change in the landscape of Cherry Hinton. The pleasant path through the fields from the end of Mill Road is hardly recognisable now. It has been diverted to make room for a huge collection of buildings from which a new siding leads to the railway line close at hand. These are the Norman Cement Company's works.

1904 11 17

Up to last night there was a cluster of buildings, workshops, tool-sheds and fowl houses at the apex of a triangle formed by property facing Mill Road, Hemingford Road and Belgrave Road, Cambridge. Today nothing remains but a heap of charred timber and twisted iron. Fire has made a clean sweep of the evidences of industry of several inhabitants and caused damage of about £250. Mr G. Woolfenden, an electrician, has lost a workshop. Most people living in the three roads have a wooden erection of some kind at the end of their gardens and those burnt down stood side by side or back to back in an area covered by 20 square yards.

1905 04 11

Sir – in June 1902 I purchased a house situate on Mill Road, Cambridge having a side street with roads and paths made. To my surprise I received a letter from the council saying that the previous owner had agreed to pay the costs of road making by instalments but had not done so and that I have to pay the debt and the interest for twelve months before I had the house. There must be some neglect somewhere. I have the honour of being an Honorary Freeman of the Borough and it seems that I am paying very dear for it. – Arthur Livermore. 05 04 11

1905 08 05

The burglary scare in Romsey Town has caused several amusing and one dangerous incident. A gentleman was keeping an all-night watch for the burglar and about 1.30 a.m. thought he observed his quarry. At any rate a revolver which he had in his possession went off. The bullet sped across the street and through the window of a house opposite. It cut two holes in the hanging curtains, smashed a large fruit dish and ended its career in a photographic frame. 05 08 05e

1905 12 09

Cambridge Corporation's new Mill Road storeyard is nearing completion on land behind the Free Library. Here material for the repair and making of roads is stored, vehicles housed and mended and appliances for any contingency kept in readiness. It has a siding to the railway for granite or cement, an open shed for refuse vehicles and stables together with accommodation for two steam rollers. There are blacksmiths, carpenters and wheelwright's shops and a men's mess room 05 12 09a & b

1905 12 30

Fire Mill Road boot stores – 05 12 30a

1906 01 01

Fire gutted the Mill Road Boot Stores adjoining St Barnabas Church, Cambridge. The flames rose to a great height and melted some of the lead of the windows of the church. The building was a one-storeyed erection, largely composed of wood. A number of wooden packing cases at the rear formed a source of danger as they connected with a thatched cottage and a stonemason's yard adjoining was also seriously placed. 06 01 01b

1906 02 09

For some years the people attending the little Wesleyan chapel at the far end of Mill Road, Cambridge, have been inconvenienced by lack of space due to the growth of the neighbourhood. An idea has been afoot for some years to build a chapel to seat 380 people on the ground adjoining the present building. The land has been purchased and the plan is approaching maturity. It would not include a gallery at first but they were confident this would soon be needed. 06 02 09a & b

1906 06 05

When the Wesleyan chapel in Romsey Town was erected in Hemingford Road, space was left for a more commodious structure. The new chapel of which Mr W. Wren of Castle Street is the architect is designed in the Queen Anne style with utility, rather than elaborate decoration; nevertheless the building with its cathedral-like windows will be a considerable addition to the notable buildings of that end of Mill Road. 06 06 05

1906 07 05

Girls County School should be erected to be convenient for girls coming by train – Mill Road 06 07 05

1906 07 16

Members of two religious sects came into collision on Parker's Piece. For the past six weeks representatives of the Mormons have been holding Sunday evening meetings and have attracted some opposition. A member of the Romsey Town Mission began to argue on the subject of polygamy; a hostile demonstration ensued and the Mormons were hustled off along Mill Road followed by a booing crowd. 06 07 16

1906 07 19

Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association held a well-attended meeting in the grounds of The Lodge, Mill Road when addresses were given by Miss Isabella Ford, a prominent suffragist, Mrs Rackham and other local ladies. Women could be guardians or medical officers but could not vote for a representative in Parliament. The grounds, which present a beautiful appearance, proved an ideal venue. 06 07 19

1906 09 15

Mill Road has never known anything quite so strange as eighteen cassowaries which have been translated from the Pacific Islands to a piece of ground reached by a short lane down Gwydir Street. They have been collected by the Hon Walter Rothschild who is writing an monograph and placed in the charge of Mr F Doggett as they flourish better here than anywhere else in England. 06 09 15a

1906 10 06

Joseph Moule was a veteran of the Crimea but rarely talked of his hardships in the trenches outside Sebastopol or of the stirring relief of Lucknow. Then as one of the gallant 90th Foot he was one of the hardened campaigners who went direct from the perils of the Crimea to the horrors of the Indian Mutiny. He expired suddenly at his home in Mill Road aged 72, thus the ranks of veterans get thinner and thinner 06 10 06

1907 01 02

A warm well-lighted room in St Paul's Institute New Town was opened as a reading room. There was a collection of current literature ready for the first arrivals who drew chairs to the tables and took advantage of the comfort and facilities provided. The Free Library was one of the most popular institutions in Cambridge, ten years ago a branch was established at Mill Road with other reading rooms at Castle End and East Road. 07 01 02 & 2a

1907 12 31

The Cambridge Railway Building Works, better known as the firm of William Saint and Sons, entertained 170 employees to dinner at the Lion Hotel. It started in 1880 and the first job was two villas on Mill Road, later came the Cattle Market contract but Westminster College, in 1900 was the largest project they had ever tackled. They were known for the quality and execution of their work which was due to men such as Vigers, Hodson, Coe, Willmott, Taylor, Lobb and Haynes. 07 12 31 & a

1908 12 18

Fire broke out in Madame Holt's milliners shop in Mill Road. A large number of hats, bonnets ribbons and ladies underwear in the window were smouldering but police extinguished them with

pails of water. It is thought a defective incandescent mantle flamed up and caught some ribbons surrounding the gas pip. But Miss Holt's assistant, Miss Key, who was in charge of the business is emphatic that she'd turned the gas off. CWN 08 12 18

1909 01 22

The line near Cambridge station was blocked by a collision between two goods trains. One engine and four trucks were derailed and the goods thrown in all directions. One was completely overturned and its contents scattered over the line while others loaded with granite had the sides ripped open. The accident happened under Mill Road Bridge where a crowd of spectators watched the arduous task of clearing the line. 09 01 22

1909 01 22

Harriet Evans was a well-known figure around Mill Road. She usually wore a white veil and carried a portmanteau or bag in each hand and would walk along in a methodical manner until a certain shop was reached where she would have sixpennyworth of firewood carefully placed in one of her leather bags. She was so confirmed a man hater that she would not use money that bore the king's head. If she was given any she would throw it in the fire. She had never had a sweetheart and never wanted one, her inquest was told. 09 01 22

1909 02 19

The gallant band of old soldiers who fought in the Crimea and the Indian Mutiny gets smaller every year. Cambridge man James Gray died in the workhouse, where the poor are so well looked after and was buried at Mill Road cemetery. There was no time to arrange for a military funeral but Captain Heal sent a large Union Jack to be placed on the coffin. Four members of the Territorial Force volunteered to act as pall bearers but assembled at Newmarket Road cemetery. On realising their mistake they drove to Mill Road which they reached just after the sorrowful ceremony had concluded and the mourners had left. 09 02 19

1909 04 -

The floor of the day nursery at Mill Road workhouse was not in a fit state for children to play on. There was a two-foot space and loose earth underneath the boards which caused a bad fungus, overseers heard. A wood block floor would be the best way of dealing with it but they did not wish to expend so much at this time. The Master reported the receipt of illustrated papers and a present of books from the Reading Room in St Peter's Street. Mrs Ridley of St Barnabas Road had sent a rocking horse. 09 04

1909 05 14

Two spinsters, aged 50 and 30, appeared in court charged with stealing carnations value sixpence from a grave in Mill Road cemetery. The custodian said he saw them take the flowers from the side of the grave of Trooper Truscott; he took the ladies to his house, locked the door and sent for a policeman. They were respectable Sunday school teachers who had known the deceased well and picked up flowers that had dropped from a wreath to take home and press in remembrance of him. The custodian was legally correct but for him to lock them up, send for a policeman and cart them through the streets to the police station was very regrettable. 09 05 14

1909 06 11

Romsey House, Mill Road with its large gardens and shrubberies was the residence of the late Mr W.E. Curry and was built for the late J.W. Prior from the designs of Mr G.H. Shackle, architect of Marlborough. It is in red brick in the Tudor style and contains several exceptionally large rooms. It was bought with fixtures, by the Romsey Town Institute Committee for £1,435. 09 06 11

1909 10 22

A number of cyclists appeared in court for various offences. Undergraduates from Caius, Trinity and St John's colleges were fined for causing obstructions with their bicycles. Geoffrey Clayton of Pembroke College was summonsed for wheeling his bike across Christ's Pieces; he said he was a

Freshman and had not seen the warning notices. Harold Grace of Queens' was fined for a similar offence in Portugal Place as was Edgar Proctor, a tobacconist of Mill Road. Carey Palmer, a printer of Warkworth Street, was fined five shillings for riding a cycle with no lights on New Square. CWN 09 10 22

1909 11 19

Frederic William Hodgson carried on the business as plumber and decorator for nearly 30 years. He was a life-long abstainer and the oldest Deputy Grand Worthy Patriarch of the Cambridge Sons of Temperance, having cycled some thousands of miles whilst engaged in propaganda work. The sad cortege proceeded from his house in Peas Hill to Mill Road cemetery where the first part of the funeral service was conducted in the chapel. The coffin was borne by fellow members of friendly societies. CEN 09 11 19

1910 07 01

A little boy named Clifford Dawson, aged 7, who lives with his grandfather in Mill Road, set out to see the Fair on Saturday and did not turn up again. At first people did not worry but on Sunday morning inquiries were made of the police. Nothing was heard until Sunday night when he was brought home by train from Foxton, where he had been to see his mother. The little boy, who was only wearing light clothes and must have been out in the pouring rain, had apparently started out to walk to the village and had got a lift on the way 10 07 01c

1910 12 09

George Storey was actively engaged in building operations in Romsey Town for many years. Later he conducted an ironmonger, painter and paperhanger's business in Mill Road and then traded as a cycle agent. He had been a member of the Liberal '400' for many years, was the first treasurer of the Cambridge Ratepayers' Association and served on the committee of the Mammoth Show, Wanderers' Cycle Club and National Skating Association. His widow is head of the toy and fancy business in Regent Street while his eldest daughters are founders of the first Cambridge Ladies' Cycling Club and conductor of dancing classes. 10 12 09f

1911 05 26

Great excitement was caused in Hooper Street by an outbreak of fire in the stable and warehouse behind Mr Wheeler's shop. The lean-to erection built against some cottage property contained goods of an extremely inflammable nature and there was quickly a blaze of alarming dimensions and intensity. Police sergeant Leonard Savidge ran for the Mill Road hose reel and firemen arrived with the motor tender. Happily there was no horse in the stable and the paraffin tank was not touched by the flames 11 05 26i

1911 06 30

Great excitement was caused in Mill Road by the escapade of an old man, 76 years of age, who escaped from a first-floor window of the Cambridge Union Workhouse, climbed down a sharply-slanting roof, dropped ten feet into the garden and disappeared. Workhouse officials, neighbours and police joined in a search for the fugitive and after four hours seeking by lantern-light and daylight he was eventually found in the cemetery in a state of collapse. Police were able to treat the injury to the old man's shoulder which was fractured when he dropped to the ground from the roof 11 06 30b

1911 97 14

The Crystal Palace pub in Mill Road Cambridge was difficult to supervise, police reported. The only way to get to the back was down a narrow passage at the side, the door of which was always locked. The Bell in Northampton Street was in bad repair with terrible accommodation, the house was damp and the only cooking facilities were in an underground kitchen. The landlady of the Chequers Impington said it was the only place to get a good glass of beer and if it closed many a man would become a teetotalter. The Gravel Diggers was right down in Cottenham fen but there was a considerable amount of labour at certain seasons. The tenant had held the licence for 30 years. It was

renewed 11 07 14. also Priory Tap, Melbourn White Horse, Guilden Morden Black Swan, Dry Drayton Prince of Wales, Swavesey Middle Watch & Black Horse, Soham Black Horse
11 07 07a

1912 03 15

Mrs S. Elbourn lives at 30 Stockwell Street, near the Mill Road Baptist Chapel, Cambridge. A year ago she said, "I have to be lifting and stooping about all day at my business and have suffered badly with my back, and with other symptoms of kidney disorder. I didn't know how to move sometimes, I had such pains. I could not get comfort in any position and used to be hours getting to sleep. But since using Doan's backache kidney pills I have not had any trouble" Now twelve months later she is better. "People have often asked me about my cure and I have always been glad to tell them how much good Doan's pills did me". Ask distinctly for Doan's backache kidney pills, the same as Mrs Elbourn had – Advert. 12 03 15a

1912 04 26

Romsey Town children had been in court charged with playing in Ross Street or St Philip's Road to the annoyance of the householders. Efforts had been made for 14 years to secure a public recreation ground; now land between the Council School and Mill Road is advertised for sale. It represents one of the last chances to secure an open space. The children of Romsey Town are on the whole healthy and strong and should have an opportunity of breathing fresh air on this open space, a meeting was told. 12 04 26c

1912 06 07

Mr I.G. Elworthy told a meeting at Morley School that he had been one of the first members of Cherry Hinton parish council in 1894. When he first came there were only 50 houses but the district had developed enormously and the need for a recreation ground was very urgent. With the enormous increase of motor traffic it became more and more dangerous for children to play in the streets. The Council should purchase a site between Cherry Hinton Road and Mill Road and in the meantime the Cattle Market field should be laid out as a temporary playground. It could be planted with trees like Christ's Pieces and would preserve the beauty of the district 12 06 07d & e

1912 06 07

Frank Ward grocers successful year; Mill Road was once of the best centres for shopping with plenty of competition making prices competitive – 12 06 07h

1912 07 12

New Cinema Theatre in Mill Road, Covent Garden, should be set back – 12 07 12f 13 01 31 p11 p12

1913 02 14

New Electric Theatre, Mill Road makes progress

1913 02 14

Cambridge licensing – pubs closed Crystal Palace in Mill Rd, Priory Tap Newmarket Road, Bell in Northampton St; are 250 licences, Star Brewery apply sell smaller quantities of beer from brewery 13 02 14 p9

1913 04 11

Mr W.L. Raynes applied for a cinematograph and music licence for the new Picture Playhouse being erected in Mill Road. The building, which is fireproof, will accommodate 167 in the gallery and 602 in the body of the hall. The architect, Mr Baines, said the walls, which were 25 feet high, complied with byelaws and steel stanchions had been embedded in the brickwork which could not possibly bend as the result of a strong wind. 13 04 11 p9

1913 04 18

Sir – A visitor to the Mill Road Picture Palace of Varieties complained that a song with a refrain “But I’m not satisfied, and you’re not satisfied” was very suggestive and the entertainment was too much of that class. This song is sung in every music hall in the country. It is my aim to provide an entertainment to which men can bring their wives and daughters without embarrassment. My patrons number the most respectable families and if I were to allow anything questionable, they would cease to patronise me – Fred Hawkins, The Empire, Mill Road. 13 04 18 p7 CIP

1913 04 18

The handsome new Electric Picture Palace being erected on the corner of Covent Garden, Mill Road, is making excellent progress with up to 35 men working on the job. When complete it will have the handsomest front of any place of entertainment in Cambridge. There will be a vestibule where 60 people can wait under shelter and the seats will be of the tip-up variety, upholstered in plush. The Electric Theatre, as well as that on Market Hill, will be under the management of Mr Adrian Jordan but the programmes will be quite distinct. 13 04 18 p9 CIP

1913 04 25

Mrs Emma Hosegood was Matron of workhouse, for 36 years. As Miss Porter she started as schoolmistress at Caxton workhouse before moving to Cambridge where Luke Hosegood was schoolmaster. They married and were offered the posts of Master and Matron at Mill Road. All her life was devoted to her work, striving to improve and maintain the high standard of efficiency she set up. 13 04 25 p10 CIP

1913 05 02

Builders working on the new Mill Road Picture Palace were taking their dinner on planks near the wall when a man rushed up and, pointing to the sky, called their attention to a passing aeroplane. Whilst they were gazing in astonishment at this interesting object he suddenly seized a dinner bag from one of them and bolted. A cry of ‘Stop thief’ was raised and a policeman gave chase, speedily joined by a fireman and a boy scout who captured his quarry with a lasso. The whole thing was a ‘put up job’ by the manager of the Electric Theatre whose operators took a cinematograph picture of the event to be shown at the cinema on Market Hill. 13 05 02 p10 CIP

1913 05 09

Yes! It is true! Perfectly true! That the new Picture Playhouse in Mill Road will open at 2.30 on Whit Monday, and present the strongest picture programme ever seen in Cambridge. It is also true, that an equally strong programme will be presented at the Electric Theatre, Market Hill 13 05 09 p01

1913 05 16

The newly-opened Picture Playhouse in Mill Road is the most comfortable in Cambridge. From the imposing frontage with its domes and balcony, through the hall, brightly lit and tastefully furnished, to the magnificent proscenium, everything is of the very best. A small orchestra adds much to the attractiveness of the entertainment. All the nearly 800 seats were filled on the first night and hundreds had to be turned away. The films included some taken by the Company’s own operator and ‘The 13th Man’, about an undergraduate club whose reunion leads to some remarkable incidents. The show is continuous and the programme changed twice a week. . 13 05 16 p7 CIP

1913 04 23

Magistrates heard two cases involving the new Picture Playhouse in Mill Road. Messrs Picture and Sons, the builders, were summonsed under the Lords Day Observance Act for working there on Whit Sunday. There was no evidence and the case was dismissed. But the Manager of the Electric Light Company was fined for parking his car across the footway in Covent Garden at the back of the cinema. He claimed it was in the entrance-yard that was filled with parking materials. He had pushed it in as far as he could and pedestrians could pass easily. He was there for 20 minutes and had moved as soon as he’d been asked by a policeman. 13 04 23 p9 CIP

1913 07 04

The automatic boxes on the doors of a number of Cambridge public conveniences have been rifled lately, the last to receive attention being the convenience on the corner of Mill Road and Hyde Park corner. One attendance is in charge of several of these places and the thefts have been committed during his absence 13 07 04 p37 CIP

1913 05 11 Women's suffrage pageant, Lodge Mill Rd

1913 07 18

H.J. Linsey bankruptcy examination, cycle dealer, Mill Road

1913 07 25

A film of great interest is being shown at the Picture Playhouse. Mill Road, special pictures having been taken by the theatre's own operator of the suffrage procession in Cambridge. The film is 230 feet long and depicts incidents of the arrival of the pilgrims on Saturday and the departure from Cambridge on Monday. Many other attractive pictures are included in the week's programme and the fine selection of classical and popular music played by Max Bennett and his clever orchestra adds much to the enjoyment of the audience 13 07 25 p7 CIP

1913 08 22

Mill Rd flower show

1913 09 05

Guildhall extension ratepayer's opposition – any money spent on libraries should provide reading rooms for Chesterton, Cherry Hinton and Newnham: when a man got home from business he doesn't feel inclined to walk down to the town again – if you look into the Mill Road reading room at night you will see how much it is appreciated. 13 09 05 p5 CIP

1913 09 19

Funeral J. Pierson, Mill Road, director of Sturton Town Hall

1913 11 21

Dipsomaniac stole wood Mill Road as impressed by undergraduate bonfire rag

1913 12 19

Suffrage pageant performed Lodge Mill Road

1914 04 10

Under the proposed new regulation every cinematograph house should have a fireman in uniform to attend to the fire appliances and take precaution against fire. But when the Cambridge Picture Playhouse was built on Mill Road it met all the regulations and they had blankets and appliances with a fire drill each week. To have a fireman in uniform would be expensive and was apt to produce a panic in the event of a fire, magistrates were told 14 04 10f

1914 05 08

Mrs L. Missing of 9 Romsey Terrace, Mill Road, says: I had a very large uric acid stone removed from my bladder and hoped I would be cured of the serious kidney problems I had suffered for years. But six months ago the trouble came on as badly as ever and I was doubled up with pain. I could not do my housework and was obliged to have a woman to do my work. But I took Doan's backache kidney pills and by the time I had finished the third box all the pain had gone. Ask distinctly for Doan's pills, the same as Mrs Missing had – Advert 14 05 08e

1914 06 26

The Storms. During the past week Cambridge has been visited by two severe thunderstorms. On Friday the lightning was very vivid at times, and following one vivid flash, a horse, belonging to

Mr. Lander, Merton Cottage, Grantchester, fell down on the Mill Road and expired. The animal had been killed by the lightning. 1914 06 26 CIPof

1914 09 25

Mr & Mrs Kerry of Mill Road have received news of the death of their son, serving with the 16th Lancers. His sergeant wrote: 'Walter was shot about one o'clock and died three-and-a-half hours later. He was conscious up to the finish. He told me to tell you that his last thoughts were with you all and that he died like a man. Poor young Horlock, of Cambridge, was thrown from his horse and hurt at the same time, but he is not seriously injured'

1914 10 23

Railway Tragedy. — A fatality occurred on the Great Eastern Railway line at Cambridge on Saturday, when a platelayer named William James Thurlow was knocked down by a truck while engaged in oiling points near Mill Road Bridge. Thurlow was working with a man named Jack Andrews, who was also knocked down and injured. Thurlow died after admission to hospital, and at an inquest the jury returned a verdict of "accidental death."

1914 11 13

Wounded Soldiers Entertained. — Striking scenes were witnessed at the Playhouse, Mill Road, Cambridge, on Thursday afternoon, when about a 100 wounded British soldiers, who were being entertained by the Directors, rose to a man and cheered lustily 50 Belgian comrades, who were also guests of the management. The Belgians returned the compliment by giving three hearty cheers for their British friends. Tea, chocolates and cigarettes were handed to the soldiers by a number of ladies, who volunteered their assistance.

1914 12 29

Gale causes damage, gable end of house Mill Road blown down, Robert Sayle window and others damage — 14 12 29e

1915 09 17

Cambridge Men's Brotherhood started 10 years ago, meetings St Andrew's Street Baptist, now to meet Playhouse, Mill Rd

1916 03 22

Sexton. The funeral of Mr. John Robert Peck took place at Mill Road Cemetery on Saturday afternoon. The deceased was a well-known Cambridge man, having been sexton at St. Andrew's the Less for about 29 years. He passed away after a painful illness at his home, 79, Norfolk Street, Cambridge. It was impossible to visit the cemetery without seeing Mr. Peck, and having been there for so many years he knew the situation of every grave. Six of the sextons from other churches offered to act as bearers. The deceased was one of the oldest Foresters, having been a member of Court "Loyal Cantab" for 49 years. He was clerk of St. Matthew's, having served under three vicars of that parish

1916 07 26

Stationmaster Honoured. — All Cambridge will join in extending heartiest congratulations to Mr. A. Peacocke, the new stationmaster at Cambridge, upon the honour conferred upon him by His Majesty the King, who has graciously awarded him the Royal Victorian Medal in recognition of long and faithful personal service rendered during the period he was travelling inspector in charge of the Royal train on the G.E.R.'s system. Although Mr. Peacocke only took over the duties of stationmaster at Cambridge at the beginning of the present month, he was well-known in the town, having, up to two years ago, resided in Mill Road for upwards of 15 years. The presentation was made at Buckingham Palace last Friday.

1916 08 23

Mill Road Cemetery, — A few weeks ago (says the writer of Town and Country topics) we called attention to the lamentable condition of a considerable part of the Mill Road Cemetery. We have abstained so far from further comment in the hope that it might be rendered unnecessary by some attempt being made to effect an improvement, but as nothing whatever has been done, we must point out that the part referred to is under the jurisdiction of the parish of Christ Church. The present state of things must have escaped the observation of the persons concerned. The whole area is a howling wilderness with grass reaching to a tall man's waist and we cannot think that the parish is content to let things bide as they are. We appreciate the labour and other difficulties which have to be encountered at this time and we are prepared to make reasonable allowances, but the present state of things in the Christ Church portion of Mill Road Cemetery is past all excuse.

1917 03 28

Marriage of a V.C. Hero. - A large number of persons were present at St. Barnabas' Church, Mill Road, Cambridge, on Saturday, when Private J. J. Caffrey, V.C. of Nottingham, was married to Miss Florence Avey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Avey. 69 Great Eastern Street, Cambridge. Like all heroes. Pte. Caffrey is very disinclined to say much about himself. It was on November 15th. 1915, when Pte. Caffrey (who is a stretcher bearer in the R.A.M.C. attached to the York and Lancaster Regiment) was sent with a corporal into "No man's land" in order to rescue a wounded comrade. After bandaging the man the corporal was shot in the head whilst endeavouring to put him on Pte. Caffrey's back. Our hero then placed the man down again, bandaged the corporal and brought the former into our own lines. He then returned for the corporal and also reached our lines with him. Pte. Caffrey is also the possessor of the Cross of St. George given by the Tsar of Russia on October 23, 1914 which he won by carrying a wounded Brigadier-General to the base, which was two miles away, and all the time exposed to heavy shell-fire.

1918 05 22

Minister's Resignation.—The Rev. J. D. Pay has resigned his appointment as minister of the Mill Road Baptist Church (Cambridge) and is expecting to leave Cambridge in the course of a week to take up a post as Chaplain to the Forces at Salonika. Mr. Pay, who has been at the Mill Road Baptist Church for eight years, has been a member of the Board of Guardians since December, 1915.

1918 11 13

Corporation Motor Lorry. — A motor lorry is shortly to be used by the Cambridge Corporation for the purpose of house refuse collecting and general haulage. The body was built on to a Ford chassis at the Corporation Works Department, Mill Road, and the lorry will make its 'appearance in public,' as it were, as soon as a driver is available.

1918 12 25

Communal Kitchen.—the Mayor (Councillor Ralph Starr) opened a new communal kitchen at Mill Road, Cambridge, last week. Later he and Councillor Thompson (treasurer) partook of the first meal.

1920 12 06

Ministry of Transport would grant aid construction of road from Cherry Hinton Road to Mill Road, Barton Road to Trumpington Rd

1920 12 09

Mill Road communal kitchen a failure, unlike others

1920 05 08

Appointment, — At a meeting of the County War Pensions Committee, held at Cambridge on Saturday, candidates for the post of cashier and accounts clerk were interviewed. Six applicants appeared before the Committee and ultimately the appointment went to Mr, G. B. Hosegood, of 89 Mill Road, Cambridge, who prior to the war was cashier and ledger clerk at Messrs. Matthew and Sons, Trinity Street. Subsequent of demobilisation he has held the position of finance officer at the local Employment Exchange.

1920 05 12

Telephone Kiosks. — The Borough Council will tomorrow be asked to approve of the erection of telephone kiosks under the shelter at Hyde Park Corner, and near Sidgwick Avenue (or the side of Queens' Road). Suggested sites on the Newmarket Road (near Abbey Road) and on the public footpath on Mill Road (near Catharine Street) have failed, to secure the approval of the Paving, etc., Committee, and in the former case the Borough Surveyor has been asked to select a suitable position in Sun Street, whilst in the latter the Post Office authorities have been requested to obtain another site on private property. The attention of the Post Office authorities is to be drawn to the need of a kiosk in the Cambridge Without District and a request made for the erection of one at the junction of Cherry Hinton

1922 12 22

Two new roads to make work unemployed – from Cherry Hinton Road to Mill Road (near huts to Brookfields) and from The Grove, Newnham to Trumpington Road via Coe Fen Lane – 22 12 22b #

1923 01 01

A "Cat Lover" writes asking me to draw attention to the fact that the almost annual outbreak of poisoning of cats is occurring in the neighbourhood of Mill Road, Cambridge. For some years past at this period of the year many domestic pets have been lost in the district in this way, and he suggests it is time the perpetrators of these outrages was detected and punished. Of course to some people "pussy" is anathema, but so are crowing cocks, cackling hens and seed-consuming pigeons to others and we have to learn to bear and forbear. Owners of cats will do well to take warning from this notice and keep a watch on their pets

1923 04 07

As a frequent visitor to the Cambridge Free Library, I have noticed with interest the very good use to which the reference library is put. It is especially satisfying to notice the number of school teachers and senior scholars who spend their Saturday mornings there, and this I have observed at the Mill Road branch as well as the Central Library, showing that the Cambridge library is, as it should be, a valuable auxiliary to the educational machine. The Mill Road Library was the worst sufferer in the necessary economies of wartime and is to receive preferential treatment in consequence.

1924 01 21

The railway strike has now begun, and reduced services are everywhere being run. No Cambridge locomotive man has taken an engine out of the sheds this morning, said W Few, secretary of the local branch of ASLEF at their headquarters, the Kingston cafe, Mill road. "The whole of our members, with the exception of 2, have ceased to work and if any driver in the NUR of whom there are 20 at Cambridge, signs on duty, there is no firemen to work with him". Tomorrow a large covered-in motor charabanc will leave the Ortona depot for London King's Cross at 8.30. The return fare is 12s.6d.

1924 02 17

"I have never known the Cambridge roads to get into such a bad state as they are at present. Take Mill Road. Here we have considerable traffic and the pedestrian and cyclist are faced with the prospect of a mud bath after every shower. To go through Trumpington road is worse than driving through a ploughed field"

1924 06 15

Many in Cambridge associated with Poor Law work will regret the death of Mr Luke Hosegood, who for 37 years was master of the workhouse in Mill Road. He was appointed schoolmaster in 1870 when there were 150 children at the Workhouse, and when tuition had to be provided for them there. In April 1883 a serious fire occurred in the men's infirmary. His brave conduct and self-possession was the means of preventing any loss of life. In recognition of his prompt work and meritorious conduct in rescuing some of the inmates he was presented with a testimonial

1925 03 05 c

A good many questions were asked at Cambridge bankruptcy court concerning certain boot-repairing machinery. Debtor said he had worked for Messrs Freeman, Hardy & Willis and later commenced business on his own account as a boot repairer in Mill Road. There was an electric motor and combination finishing machine, which cost £44. There was also a patching-machine. He had been pressed by creditors so he sold these machines to get money to satisfy them. The machines had not been removed from his premises and he did not tell his creditors he had sold them. It was untrue to say that gambling was one of the reasons for his appearance in that court.

1925 10 08

A Cambridge man who has been at one time or another general labourer, cook, dock labourer, railway worker, amusement caterer, ice-cream vendor, toy retailer, fish merchant, wholesale biscuit dealer and greengrocer, appeared for his public examination in bankruptcy at Cambridge. He had come to Cambridge in 1916 and started an "amusement arcade" in Mill Road. The amusements consisted of automatic machines, darts, games etc. He used to go round public houses with his automatic machines, half the profits were to go to the pub and half to himself. Soon after he opened business the police issued a summons against him and he scrapped four or five gaming machines.

1925 10 22

There was another 'battle of the bridges' at Cambridge Town Council when the question of the erection of bridges across the Cam was brought forward. With the opening up of Mill Road there were people who only got ten minutes home to dinner owing to delay at the ferry. The Paving committee recommended that the footbridge at Pretoria Road be proceeded with and that a temporary footbridge be erected at Dant's Ferry pending construction of a vehicular bridge. It was dangerous to go over Victoria Bridge and they must have a new vehicular bridge if only to modify that danger.

1925 11 18 c

Foreign missions take an important place in the religious life of Cambridge, and the reports from China of the shocking ill-treatment and martyrdom of missionaries at the hands of the Boxers, have been read with grave anxiety and pain in this town. The fate of Mr & Mrs Herbert Dixon has greatly exercised the minds of their many friends and it is now recognised that all hope of their having escaped is past. They were for some months in Cambridge, residing at Mill Road and when leaving were recipients of presentations from the congregation of St Andrew's Street Baptist church. Another melancholy case is that of the sister of Mr Doggett of The Farm, Cherry Hinton but Miss Gregg has escaped and is now on her way home.

1926 02 26

Sir – as a business man obliged to use the railways I wish to draw attention to the lack of punctuality of trains from the St Ives branch at Cambridge station. The 8.25 pm is invariably anything from a quarter to half-an-hour late, generally waiting ten minutes at Mill Road bridge whilst room is being found to run up to the platform. There is a rumour that the Ortona Motor Bus Company is shortly linking up with the National Bus Company at St Ives. The railway companies grumble about road transport competition, but it is their own fault and they have a remedy by being more punctual with the passenger service – H.G. Parker

1926 03 12

A Cambridge school girl died of small-pox at the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Mill Road and as a result the East Road Boys', Girls' and Infants' Schools have been closed for at least a week for disinfection. The Medical Officer strongly advises people to get vaccinated. The last outbreak occurred in 1921 when a man was affected. There was also an isolated outbreak in 1919

1926 09 16

Sir – Will the Transport Authority please have a look at Mill Road junction with East Road, Cambridge. Corners are being rounded off and visibility increased in many parts but at this extremely busy point efforts seem to have been multiplied to prevent a safe flow of traffic. The large block of

lavatories and the telephone kiosk form nuclei for masses of trees, shrubs and large flowering plants which entirely obstruct the view. Everyone enjoys greenery and colour, but in this instance they are in the wrong place, without doubt, and call for removal – “Safety First”

1926 09 23

Cambridge Guardians received a complaint from a resident in Gwydir Street: “How much longer have we to put up with the filthy, stinking smoke which is belching forth from the Workhouse chimney in Mill Road. My little girl is delicate and it makes her so ill that I have to take her out of the house as the smoke penetrates every room, besides killing the flowers in our little garden and making our washing filthy”. The black smoke was terrible and had made people ill. The Workhouse Master attributed the trouble to steam coal which had to be used.

1926 10 07

By the death of Mr Henry Flanders, chemist of Mill Road, Cambridge we feel we have lost a friend to whom we could have gone at all times for advice. We admired his knowledge and tact and the way he treated everybody alike. There was no distinction between rich and poor in his shop. He was the poor man’s guide, philosopher and friend. We who have in time of many ailments sought his friendly counsel have come away relieved by his cheery words. When it happened – fairly frequently – that a poor client had not at the moment the cash ready he would invariably say, “Oh, yes, yes, that’s all right”

1926 10 27

An important new block is about to be opened as an extension of the Cambridge Poor Law Institution. The Mill Road workhouse received its first inmates in September 1838; just before Christmas married couples and the aged women arrived, and the sick and infirm were brought ‘in fives’ from the Poorhouse of St Sepulchre and St Mary-the-Less. As tea was then 3s.3d. a lb ‘small beer’ was allowed in its place and sometimes given in excess so the quantity was limited to one quart daily per inmate. It has served with certain alterations and additions for three generations but now is inadequate for present requirements. The new block contains sick wards, maternity wards and nurseries. It will prove very useful and be a credit to the town.

1926 12 16

It may not be generally known to the Cambridge public that Mr Carne, the manager of the Playhouse, Mill Road, is the “Victor Carne” who figures in the record list of the Vocalion Gramophone Co. He has recorded “The Holy City” and “The Star of Bethlehem” for their Christmas list and these and other of his records are obtainable at Messrs Leavis’s, Regent Street. Wireless enthusiasts will no doubt remember the many times he has sung from London and Daventry.

1927 03 16

The owners of the Playhouse, Mill Road, Cambridge, have just completed negotiations for the sale of that cinema to a syndicate who are said to be the owners of the Central Cinema and the Tivoli. We understand that the transfer will take place in September. The Picture Playhouses Ltd, who owned the Playhouse, also have property in Sussex Street and they are also disposing of this.

1927 04 29

Mill Road Baptist Church, Cambridge, was packed when a new organ which has just been installed was formally opened. There was a time when a church of that sort would not have had an organ at any price. It appears to be a good all-round instrument and some of the stops are beautifully mellow. The organ was built by the local firm of Messrs Miller & Son, Sidney Street, and they have certainly made a splendid job. They have used some of the pipes of the old organ and worked in the old with the new excellently.

1927 10 17

A slight failure occurred at one of the Electricity Supply Company substations and for about half-an-hour people living in Mill Road, Cambridge and not equipped with gas were feeling their way in the

darkness. Temporary confusion reigned at the Gwydir Street baths where the weekly ablutions were being performed. All the baths were occupied and the bathers found themselves in a somewhat awkward predicament. One gentleman spent some time looking for the soap. But the situation was overcome by the prompt action of one of the attendants who sped to a nearby shop and purchased some candles.

1928 05 03

Cambridge was visited by a thunderstorm characterised by some very heavy peals of thunder and very sharp flashes of lightning. The chimney of a house at 54 St Barnabas Road was struck. Mr Easton, a Mill Road cycle agent, said his family had not left the back bedroom more than two minutes when they were startled by a terrific explosion. The electric light failed and they found that a bedroom fireplace had been blown out into the room and lay smothered with dust and soot on the floor.

1928 08 21

The funerals of the two victims of the level-crossing disaster at Shepreth, the fireman of the engine and the driver of the motor lorry, took place at Cambridge. The passing of each cortege along Mill Road was watched by a number of silent sympathisers. Owing no doubt to the rain comparatively few people had assembled when the procession of the lorry driver passed from Romsey Terrace. Heads were bared and traffic stopped, an Ortona bus remaining stationary until the party had passed. A short while afterwards the cortege of the fireman turned out of Suez Road. It was headed by railwaymen, then came the bearers followed by a motor hearse, the top of which was covered with beautiful wreaths.

1928 12 27

There was no place in Cambridge where greater efforts were made to bring about a happy Christmas than at the Poor Law Institution, Mill Road. Gone forever were the old traditions of Bumbledom and the hardships associated with the workhouse regime. Enthusiastic spirits and untiring hands had transformed this already 'rejuvenated' building into a place which re-echoed in every corner to the joyous note of Yuletide happiness. The vestibules were almost as gaily decorated as the wards, festoons and balloons meeting the eye in every direction. A novel feature was the use of Flanders poppies, given by the British Legion. Santa Claus arrived in a sleigh drawn by two Alsatians; strangely enough the Master was not to be found when Santa arrived.

1929 02 18

The North East Coast contingent of the unemployed marchers who are making their way to London arrived in Cambridge. Carrying banners, singing old war songs and rattling collecting boxes they entered the town via Huntingdon Road. The local Labour Party and Trades Council having decided not to give them official recognition the 88 marchers proceeded direct to the Poor Law Institution, Mill Road, where the staff had made preparations for them. They were given Irish stew and entertained at their private cinema installation.

1929 03 22

Cambridge council is to introduce automatic traffic signals at the crossroads at Northampton Street and Chesterton Lane for a three-month trial. The present cost of a policeman on point duty was about £400 a year and the signals, with purchase, would be about £200 with about £25 a year maintenance and repairs. But Coun Stubbs described it as "robot policemen"; a friend in Liverpool had had to wait ten minutes with a clear road before he could get a move on. He did not see how traffic could be controlled as well as by human means: "I can see myself telling it to mind its own business" (Laughter). It was at the wrong place, being at the bottom of a steep hill; it would be better at the East Road – Mill Road crossing.

1930 01 09

Cambridge bankruptcy court heard of a young man who began trading as a milk retailer. He bought a motor-cycle truck sidecar for milk work then exchanged it for a Ford touring car. But it was no good – he had engine trouble and practically everything went wrong. It was broken up and he bought at

Austin 20 for £17 and had it converted into a lorry. He had about 90 customers in Mill Road but they dropped to 20 when the Co-op started in the milk business; he then tried his luck as a haulage contractor and finally tried to recoup his losses by racing greyhounds at Cambridge.

1930 04 01

The disappearance of Boards of Guardians and the transference of the Poor Law work to the Public Assistance Committees has caused some bewilderment. The chief institution in Cambridge is that at 81a Mill Road; it was erected in 1838 as a 'Union' to replace numerous small parish workhouses. The name has been changed to Poor Law Institution in recent years. The demand for accommodation became so acute that in 1923 they had to build a new block. The Infirmary of the old Workhouse has become a hospital with 124 beds in up-to-date wards with a large nursing staff including three certified midwives. 30 04 01a-c

1930 -7 24

Mrs Elizabeth Haslop has been described as a woman possessed of splendid business acumen. She carried on her late husband's butcher's business in Silver Street Cambridge and was the last link with the well-known firm which has been in existence for nearly 100 years and will be carried on. In her earlier life she was well-known in the Mill Road district where a small shop near Tension Road was run in her name. 30 07 24

1930 09 01

Sir – Old Romsey Town is a labyrinth of mean streets but it has enjoyed an oasis of green and trees on the area bounded by Mill Road, Cavendish Road, Sedgwick Street and St Philip's Road. But half of this green and pleasant land is destined to disappear. Already trees have been cut down and little box-like houses have been erected in their place in Sedgwick Street and similar erections are expected to displace the mature trees shading St Philip's Road. Except for the inclusion of bathrooms these houses are not one whit more attractive than many others in the area. An enlightened authority would have realised the potential of this site for recreation – 'Busybody'. 30 09 01

1930 09 20

The whole of Mill Road, Cambridge, was affected by a two-hour electricity stoppage which came just as the first performance finished at both the Playhouse and Kinema cinemas. The Kinema audience who had been watching a Western thriller, whiled away the time in community singing. But some trouble was experienced with the queue for the last show at the Playhouse which did not finish until midnight. 30 09 20

1932 05 19

A fire broke out at the Corporation Store Yard, Mill Road when a tar boiler, containing 240 gallons, boiled over. The tar blazed up and ran under some old timber, setting it alight. Several barrels of tar and a horse lorry also became involved in the blaze. Flames shot 30 ft in the air and a dense, black pall of smoke settled over the neighbourhood. Employees attempted to put it out with water and sand. Had the wind been blowing in the opposite direction, serious damage might have been done. 32 05 19a

1933 02 09

Cambridge has lost an old-established tailor by the death of Mr Byron Thomas Wait of Mill Road. His father was a tailor at St Ives but Byron came to Cambridge 52 years ago and opened the shop in Hills Road. Thirty-five years ago he extended the business to the shop at 28 Mill Road and four years later to 100 Regent Street. Two of his sons are carrying on the business. 33 02 09b

1933 06 03

W.D. Nicholes, Mill Road store refurbishment – 33 06 03

1933 12 27

The two dozen kiddies confined to the Mill Road Isolation Hospital for Christmas found a keen and energetic staff to brighten up the holiday. Balloons, paper decorations, flags and mistletoe were to be seen in profusion and the girls' ward contained a huge Christmas tree sparkling with fancy ornaments and tinsel. At the Union Road Institution there was breakfast of sausages and dinner of roast pork, beef and mutton with sprouts, parsnips and potatoes followed by Christmas pudding and custard. Fruit, tobacco, beer and lemonade were also provided and afterwards the inmates listened to the King's speech on the wireless. 33 12 27

1934 11 12

Several hundred people joined in a peace meeting on Parker's Piece organised by the Cambridge Anti-War Council and the University Anti-War Movement before marching in a torchlight procession to the War Memorial. The procession, some 300 strong began their march along Mill Road, increasing in size as it went along. But they missed the turning into Tenison Road and crossed Mill Road Bridge before winding its way round the back streets to the War Memorial. They laid a wreath 'To those of all countries who fell in the last war from those who are pledged to prevent another'. 34 11 12c

1935 01 26

Sir - The Mill Road footbridge over the railway line was opened to the public on Monday August 3rd 1889. I was the last one to take the keys of the gates to the station - William Nelson. Sir - The iron footbridge over the railway on Mill Road had wooden steps and gave access to the open fields beyond it. In fact, so countrified was the area that when the Royal Standard was built it was known as 'Apthorpe's Folly' from William Apthorpe the brewer who built it. The bridge now stands on Coldham Common where it spans the Newmarket Line - H.D.C. 35 01 26

1935 02 22

A feather bed caught fire in Cambridge. It was being aired in front of the fire in the sitting-room of a house in Mill Road, occupied by Mrs Wilkins. The Brigade was called and turned out under P.S. Clague, but the blaze was extinguished with pails of water by Mrs Wilkins and others in the house before the engine arrived. 35 02 22h

1936 01 17

It is many years since Raymond Bennett was a Cambridge semi-professional entertainer who made early appearances in cine-variety at the Playhouse, Mill Road. He has progressed rapidly and Cambridge audiences now have an opportunity of seeing him at the Theatre Cinema with his partner of many broadcasts. Bennett and McNaughton have achieved great success on the music halls, including the Holborn Empire, and have attained great popularity as broadcasting stars. Those who have listened to their broadcasts will be glad of this opportunity of renewing acquaintance with a popular local artiste 36 01 17

1936 02 22

Harvey's Church Farm Estate at Eversden & Harlton offers a brick-built bungalow with an acre of well-drained land suitable for nurseries, glasshouses or poultry fattening - Mr Creighton, who lives on the Estate, is an expert and would be pleased to show you the methods. The basis of a house is the foundations and the material comes from our own sand pits at Cottenham. We use Fletton Bricks and tiles fitted by the Marley Tile Company who give a 40 years guarantee with each roof. Window frames and doors come from Newsums of Lincoln, ranges and locks by Cakebread Robey & Co while Sir William Rose & Company supply the paints and distemper and electrical installations are carried out by A.W. Matthews of Mill Road, Cambridge. Advert 36 02 22d

1936 12 28

Christmas in Sanatorium Mill Road, Church Army work aid home, Harvey Goodwin Home, District Nurses' Home - 36 12 28

1937 03 24

When the Salvation Army first came to Cambridge Ellis Merry gave them what was then his wash-house in which to hold their meetings. He was one of the early sergeant-majors and associated himself with their work in the villages, using a concertina and violin to good effect. He was the first to run a penny bus, from Mill Road into town and also did the horse mail work. Until his retirement Mr Merry carried on the business of undertaker. 37 03 24c

1937 04 23

Opening Ascham Road library, the Mayor said it was a great day for Chesterton. In that beautiful building, with good light and accommodation they could look at the books and select them for themselves. The children's library would encourage youngsters to read. At present physical education was the fashion. We were in danger of producing a nation finely developed from the waist down. The library would help to counteract it. Ten months ago they opened a branch library in Rock Road and so far 87,799 books had been issued, very close to the number at Mill Road branch which had been in existence 40 years. (Applause). 37 04 23c & d

1938 01 01

Sir – as a small boy in the 1880s my first impressions of Cambridge were so different from today as to be almost incredible. Cambridge, bounded practically by Mill Road railway gates, Paper Mills Bridge, Hills Road Bridge and Queens' Road was a glorified village. It smacked of medieval times with its Spinning House in St Andrew's Street and bread and butter was retailed in yard length by Varsity tradesmen. The fastest vehicles on the road were the pretty tandem horses in dog carts affected by rich undergraduates and hansom cabs and I remember assisting the shepherd of Mr Joseph Sturton's sheep with his flock to and from Parker's Piece where they were grazed – P.J. Wright 37 08 16 Dick Whittington and his cat ushered in the New Year at the Dorothy Café where Percy Cowell and his band kept up a programme of old and new dances including the Palais Glide. Just before midnight all lights in the ballroom were extinguished as Dick, joined by two fairies, bombard the 650 dancers with paper hats and other carnival novelties. At the Salisbury Conservative Working Men's Club in Mill Road just over 200 danced to the rhythm of Cliff West's band while Son's Accordion Band played to a packed floor at the Beaconsfield Hall. 38 01 01a & b

1938 02 02

About 200 members of Joe Davis' billiards club in Mill Road, Cambridge, watched an exhibition by Miss Joyce Gardiner, six times the world's woman billiards champion who was paying her first visit to the hall. A stylist, she was watched with rapt attention all through her demonstration. Her highest break in an exhibition is 213 but in practice she has made one of over 300.

1938 06 16

The Bishop told the clergy he had money to make Mill Road cemetery chapel more dignified and beautiful. He would ask an architect to prepare plans. The chapel was used from time to time and more funerals might be held there. But it was felt that as so few burials took place, it was not worth the expenditure. It was extremely damp, there was no heating, it was difficult to ring the bell and it was such an ugly building it could never be made beautiful. But it was too drastic to close it altogether 38 06 16a & b

1938 08 27

Many cemetery chapels are utterly dismal and depressing, the Bishop of Ely says, work may be undertaken at Mill Road cemetery – 38 08 27

1938 08 31

Smart-looking Army Recruiting Office in Mill Road attracts inquirers – photo – 38 08 31

1938 09 15

Residents of Hope Street, off Mill Road, should not be surprised if they see a goose and gander waddling down the road. Mr E.R. Smith has tamed them to accompany him for walks each morning and evening. "You can get a goose to follow you by enticing it with a piece of cabbage or lettuce", he

says. The pets are not traffic shy and keep to the side of the road or go on the pavement. They wait outside while he goes shopping. He bought them when they were a fortnight old and is fattening them to adorn the table at Christmas. 38 09 15a

1938 12 24

Lombardy Poplar by Catholic church was planted by Julian Skrine in his garden at 'Lensfield' the grounds of which extended to where Catholic Church now stands; has photo of garden showing windmill in Mill Road. 38 12 24b

1939 03 25

Mill Road cemetery chapel to be decorated by Reginald Hallwood – 39 03 25

1939 04 01

Mill Road cemetery chapel has been redecorated and a dedicatory service was conducted by the Bishop of Ely who said he was very keen about cemetery chapels, some of which were in a very sorry condition. Before this chapel was redecorated it was much better than some others. It is exceptional for a cemetery chapel to be inspiring and uplifting; they should be beautiful and eloquent of the Christian faith. He thanked the decorators for their work and a collection was taken in aid of the fund for the readornment of the chapel. 39 04 01a

1939 04 06

The Bishop of Ely dedicated the redecorated Mill Road cemetery chapel. He was very keen about cemetery chapels, some of which were in a very sorry condition. Before this chapel was redecorated it was much better than some others. It is exceptional for a cemetery chapel to be inspiring and uplifting but they should be beautiful and eloquent of the Christian faith. He thanked the decorators for their work and a collection was taken in aid of the fund for the readornment of the chapel

1939 05 18

Jack Brignell carried on business as a builder and undertaker in Newmarket Road for over 40 years. He erected many large buildings in Cambridge but was recently mainly engaged on Council schemes such as the erection of the Coleridge Senior School. He was a county councillor and took a keen interest in the Mill Road Infirmary, Salvation Army, Victoria Institution and Cambridge Brotherhood. He died on the eve of his only son's 21st birthday so a coming of age party arranged at his college, Sidney Sussex, has of course been abandoned. 39 05 18c

1939 07 01

Mill Road library was built on part of the old workhouse field; a Chesterton reader recalls "The firm who did the plumbing were so short of work that they 'small-ganged' this job and in the forming the foreman used to say "Mill-road gang, fall in". The library is very handy to pop in to read the papers. A.E.H. remarks: "I have good reason to know it as I spent many happy hours in the management of that establishment when I was an assistant librarian under the late John Pink" 39 07 01

1939 10 11

Air Raid precautions committee have ensured that petrol supplies will be available for special services and several garages have reserved tanks and pumps for them. There are decontaminating centres at Mill Road store yard, Cherry Hinton Hall and Victoria Road. First aid depots have been set up at Shirley and other Schools with first aid parties and two ambulances. Electrically controlled sirens have been installed which together with the steam sirens should be adequate to give necessary warnings 39 10 11

1939 12 27

Christmas festivities; Addenbrooke's Hospital, Church Army Home, Mill Road infirmary evacuees
39 12 27

1940 07 04

Sailor Peter Barker, Mill Road describes sinking by submarine – 40 07 04a

1940 09 04

F. Gillson, Mill Road, Salvation Army memories – 40 09 04a

1940 09 13

Daniel Dunsden, platelayer of Mill Road killed when caught be trailing cable of barrage balloon and carried for 300 yards; cable threw wireless pole through roof of house Mill Road, damaged chimney stack Teversham Hall Farm – 40 09 13a, 40 09 17a

1940 09 18

Girl killed by army motor truck, Mill Road – 40 09 18a

1940 07 05

Golden Wedding.—“Given good health, we could live it all over again.” Thus said Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Gilbert, of 254 Mill Road, Cambridge, reviewing their married life on their golden wedding day. They were married at Christ Church on July 1, 1890, and in 1892 opened a grocer's business in Kingston Street. At the same time. Mr. Gilbert was bacon store manager for Messrs. Hallack and Bond. It was here, in 1904, that he fell down a lift shaft and was unconscious for three days. It may be added that Mr. Gilbert is a non-drinker and non-smoker. He retired from business in 1937. Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert have two daughters and a son, and speak proudly of their four granddaughters, Mr. Gilbert; is 74 and his wife 70, but both look at least ten years younger. In this respect it is interesting to note that Mrs. Gilbert made her own cake for the celebration supper.

1940 09 06

Killed by Drifting Balloon.—A man was killed and considerable damage done when a barrage balloon drifted over Cambridge yesterday afternoon. The dead man was Daniel Dunston, a platelayer, of 146 Mill Road, Cambridge. Aged over 60, he was near the railway between Mill Road and Coldham's Lane Bridge when he was caught by a steel cable trailing from the balloon. He was carried for a distance of over 30 yards and then dropped, sustaining fatal injuries. Before the accident the balloon had passed over the town at a considerable height. In the Mill Road area it came lower, and the cable threw a wireless pole through the roof of a house in Mill Road. The interior of the house was not damaged and no-body was injured in this incident. The balloon then gained height and drifted in the direction of Teversham. At Teversham Hall an old chimney stack on a scullery was struck by the cable. A piece of the cable was snapped off and the balloon at once shot up into the air and continued in an easterly direction. Telephone wires were damaged and the electricity supply for a village was affected for a time.

1941 01 27

Sand bags tied to lamp posts vandalised in Mill Rd – 41 01 27a

1941 01 31

Three people are feared to have been killed and four others received head injuries when a German raider dropped several high explosive bombs on an East Anglian town yesterday afternoon. The plane dived low before releasing the bombs, said an eye-witness. One bomb fell on a row of small houses, demolishing two, and some of the casualties were people in these premises – 41 01 31 CIPof

1941 01 31

Bombs next door ... Mill Road bombing – 41 01 31b

Creeping in from Ely at low level during the dull, dreary Thursday afternoon, it dropped nine 50 kg HEs at 15:57 straddling Mill Road Bridge. Bombs burst in the Corporation store yard, and No 130 Mill Road and the next house were shattered by a direct hit. Other bombs exploded in the rail yard. Although the undershoot meant that the locomotive maintenance area escape destruction, two

civilians were killed and ten injured, for the bridge was being used by many pedestrians and cyclists at the time. (Michael Bowyer 'Air Raid' p137)

1942 07 24

Isolation Hospital Mill Road temporary extension opened for infectious diseases – 42 07 24

1943 11 25

Scotney's butchers of Mill Road summoned for selling meat above maximum price and delivering food to Romsey Community Feeding Centre without proper paperwork – 43 11 25

1944 01 08

H.J. Robinson retires as Librarian, Mill Road; was appointed in 1897 when 12,000 books issued.

Brother was P.R. Robinson of Trumpington – 44 01 08

1946 02 20

Coloured airmen in scuffle on Mill Road – 46 02 20

1946 11 20

County hospital, Mill Road, largely used as Maternity Unit – feature – 46 11 20

1947 05 06

A period piece, the period of which the members of the Library Committee do not particularly appreciate, was how the present high domed roof of Mill Road branch library was described when a resolution authorising the provision of a new false ceiling was criticised at Cambridge town council meeting. Ald E.S. Peck said "When I was chairman I thought it was rather a charming building architecturally and I think it would be entirely spoilt if they put a new ceiling in

1947 08 06

Because of the danger of ice-cream spreading conditions of infectious diseases three defendants were summoned for not displaying their name and address on the vehicle from which they were selling the ice-cream. Ernesto Fella of Mill Road, Cambridge pointed out that his tricycle had just been painted, but the address had been omitted. This error had now been rectified. Another said that while he was waiting to get the name painted on the van he had stuck two labels on the side but these had come off during one of the storms. The name and address were painted on the following morning. All were fined £1

1948 01 07

As the Mayoress of Cambridge (Mrs Hickson is the mother of three children) it was very natural that she should take a particular interest in the maternity services at the County Hospital in Mill Road when she paid her Christmas visit there last week. Mrs Hickson had a long talk with the matron (Mrs Ditchburn) who expressed the view that both the young mother of today and her baby are in better condition than she has ever known before. In spite of rationing and the hard times in which we are living the modern woman approaches motherhood with far less apprehension than in pre-war days. Matron pointed out that the extra milk, vitamin tablets and orange juice help to replace the shortages due to rationing

1948 02 03

A new Cambridge ballroom known as The Embassy is to be opened at Mill Road tomorrow evening. Formerly a billiards hall, the building has been converted by Mr Harry Bradford, who claims that as a result of the labours of himself and friends the building is now "a lovely ballroom". For the opening tomorrow the new resident professional band is led by Freddie Webb, who has just left the Bag o'Nails Club, London, to take over the leadership. With him are Tony Rivers, alto saxophone, Dusty Myatt (piano) and Freddy Webb, drummer. Guest vocalist with the band is Harry Roy, vocalist Terry da Costa

1948 02 06

"It could not have been better placed for now it will eliminate the necessity of people of this district having to go to the Guildhall and like places for their entertainment. The management are to be congratulated on the redecoration of the building". So said Ald A.E. Stubbs, M.P. of the new "Embassy" ballroom Mill Road, Cambridge. And if the reaction of a "capacity" crowd who flocked to this new venture are anything to go by, his words were most heartily endorsed. From the word "Go" at 7.30 the crowd set out to make the most of their new ballroom, and numbers steadily increased until the maximum of 300 dancers had been reached

1948 07 02

What might be termed the swan-Song of the Cambridge County Council Public assistance Committee took place at Shire Hall. In common with many other similar committees its duties will be taken over by the Ministry of Health on 5th July. The chairman, Mrs Mellish Clark, said that at the County Hospital Mill Road they decided to develop the maternity work, to close the casual wards and move the nursery children out to Linton. At Chesterton Hospital they had built a new casual ward, but when the war came these wards were converted by the additional of hospital beds and were being so used at the present time. At Linton they had built a Nurses Home but as there was no proper sanitation at Caxton they had decided to pull it down

1948 12 23

An unusual display of Christmas cheer amid the austerity of today has attracted considerable attention in Cambridge's Mill Road. On view and on the premises of Messrs Roger Harris and Son, family butchers and poultry dealers, are nearly 1,000 birds - and everyone is spoken for. Every registered customer who wanted a Christmas dinner was catered for, and in addition, a few other customers were lucky enough to place orders. Butcher Harris has made a speciality of Christmas poultry for years and the display represents 18 years of goodwill and business with local poultry-keepers

1949 01 03

When visiting the county hospital, Mill Road, Cambridge, the Mayoress saw the hospital's "miracle baby" and heard from the Matron (Mrs D. Ditchburn) how this baby, premature and weighing 3lb 1 oz at birth and kept in an oxygen tent, has survived three relapses when blood transfusions and oxygen had to be given, and now at 3 ½ months weighs 6 ½ lbs and is making steady progress. In the fight to keep her alive she has been given penicillin and streptomycin and the sulphonamide drugs.

1949 02 09

To celebrate the first anniversary of the opening of the Embassy Ballroom, Mill Road, Cambridge a birthday ball was held there when the resident band, under Freddy Webb, was augmented. A very happy note was struck by the appearance of Ken Turner and his band from the Rex Ballroom, together with their wives and lady friends, on the dance floor, dancing for a change, instead of playing for others. Altogether a very happy birthday evening for the ballroom.

1949 02 28

Cambridge University and Town Gas Light Company meeting was told that 8 ¾ miles of new mains had been laid. The supply had been extended to Teversham and Coton and a new low-pressure feeder main installed between Newmarket road and Mill road, Cambridge. This necessitated laying a section of the main six feet underneath the four lines of railway track at Coldham's Lane Bridge. Statistics revealed 600 new consumers, the supply of 1,606 gas cookers and a growing interest in central heating through automatically operated gas boilers.

1949 03 02

Triplets born at the Mill Road Maternity Hospital are making excellent progress. They are all healthy, alert little babies who have not given a moment's anxiety since their arrival. All weighed over 4lb at birth. The hospital staff are understandably proud of their triplets, for they are the first born there in the 15 years since maternity cases were first handled

1949 05 18

Among the few air-raids Cambridge suffered was the one a night in August 1941 which besides damaging a number of houses in Romsey town, completely demolished an old building which was used as a primary Sunday school by Mill Road Baptists. A handsome hall is now being built and is expected to be opened in the autumn.

1949 10 15

A man whose name became famous throughout Cambridge and the Eastern Counties through the chain of stores which he began, Mr Frederick Winton Smith, died yesterday. He came to Cambridge in 1910 and set up the well-known butchery and provisions trade at Mill Road. Within a very short time he was able to expand the business until the firm is familiar throughout East Anglia.

1950 01 02

There was a record crowd at the Embassy ballroom, Mill Road, Cambridge where over 500 people "danced-in" 1950 to the accompaniment of Freddy Webb and the resident band. At midnight the chimes of Big Ben heard from a portable radio, brought a hush in the crowded room and an illuminated sign bearing the figures '1950' descended onto the stage. Dancing stopped at midnight, but there was still half-an-hour to welcome 1950 with the hit tunes of 1949 and it was a grand sing-song that brought the evening to a close.

1950 04 12

Mr J. Hyden, who until recently was a station officer in the Cambridge fire brigade has given up the job of quenching fires to take on one of quenching thirsts. He is now the landlord of the Durham Ox in Mill Road, Cambridge. The reason for the change is that since he was burnt nearly three years ago by mustard gas when helping to put out a fire near Fulbourn on a train carrying cylinders, he has suffered from skin trouble when exposed to heat.

1950 07 06

Using pre-cast and interlocking concrete blocks three men laid the equivalent of 3,000 bricks in just under 3½ hours on the Newmarket Road housing estate, Cambridge. The blocks, patented under the name of "Dri-Crete" are the results of research by Mr B. F. Hartley, director of the British Art Tile Co. of Mill Road. During 1950 two houses have been erected at the new satellite town of Newton Aycliffe, near Darlington, using the blocks. Members of the Dri-Crete Association visited Papworth to see farm buildings erected from the blocks and to Waterbeach RAF station to inspect Dri-Crete walls.

1950 08 14

In another 20 years Cambridge should be certain of having a strong and healthy community of young men & women, for surely the present day babies must be the best of any generation. This was brought to mind at the Bonny Baby Show when proud mothers watched their babies judged by an expert authority, Sister Sparrow, of the Mill Road Maternity Hospital. One has only to walk along the street and look into every pram you pass to see that all the occupants, with a few very rare exceptions, are happy and contented little souls.

1950 09 22

Roger Keith Woollard of Mill Road, Cambridge, - eight years old - is surely Cambridge's youngest aircraft recognition expert. You can see him any Sunday up at Cambridge airport noting down numbers and types of aircraft flying there with the same enthusiasm that some youngsters collect car or engine numbers. I asked him what he did if an aircraft arrived which he could not identify. "I go and ask the duty pilot what it is", he said. His devotion to this hobby deserves recognition, I would suggest by the appointment as the official mascot of Marshall's airport

1950 9 27

The news that Mr Douglas Nicholes is disposing of his well-known drapery and outfitting business in Mill Road will be received with regret by local people who admire the pioneer spirit and enterprise of a family concern. There are still people who can remember the early days of what was then a small

lock-up shop surrounded by fields – known as Feke's Meadows - on both sides of the roads on the town side. It is 68 years since Mr W.D. Nicholes founded the business. In those early days they were the largest wholesalers of foreign goods in East Anglia. The retail side was developed later and menswear has always been a speciality.

1950 11 30

Local tradesmen are becoming worried about the parking situation in Cambridge. They fear that if this goes on the people will not come shopping in the town, said a solicitor appearing for a motorist summoned for a parking offence. Altogether there were 16 cases before the court and fines totalling £12 10s were imposed. One motorist, whose car was punctured late one night, parked it in a side street off Mill Road and knowing that the battery would last only two hours at the most had not put his lights on. There was nothing else he could do. He was fined 10s.

1951 05 16

The Playhouse Cinema, Mill Road, completed 38 years of service and entertainment. To celebrate the event the manager (Mr Eric Dallman) arranged a special birthday month. He opened with a brief history of the cinema and read telegrams of congratulation from Richard Todd and Joan Dowling, the two popular British stars. A request for any member of the audience who was at the opening in 1913 resulted in one patron coming to the stage. He was Mr W.J. Pugh who had been a regular patron since it opened. The audience was then introduced to the longest serving member of staff, Mrs F. Hewett who had done most jobs except the operating box – but thought she would like to try that as well!

1951 05 21

The finals of the crooning contest were held at the Playhouse Cinema, Mill Road. Only two finalists competed, Miss Eve Lynn and Mr Bob Garner. Judging was by Mr Dickie Valentine, who appeared by permission of the New Theatre management. Music for the finals was supplied by Freddie Webb and his band. Mr Garner was declared the winner and presented with the Vaughn Munroe trophy by Dickie Valentine, who then sang three songs at the request of the manager, Mr Eric Dallman.

1951 07 19

“The problem of old age will get the county down unless we learn ways of doing it economically as well as efficiently” said the speaker at Cambridgeshire Old People's Welfare Council. Her interest had started over half a century ago when she was taken to the old workhouse in Mill Road and had been absolutely appalled at the condition of the old ladies. Some of them looked after babies for twelve hours a day with no reward except extra cups of tea. “They paid for the sin of being old in those days”, she said.

1951 07 28

Cambridge is a town that likes to be visited; “put out your flags” urges the mayor to set the town in a blaze of colour for the Festival. In the past many of our college buildings have been given a new beauty by the use of flood lighting and this is being introduced again. Great St Mary's church, the Senate House and Old Schools, King's College chapel, Clare College Bridge and the University Library will be lit. Most of the work is being carried out by a local firm of electricians, A.W. Matthews of Mill Road.

1951 10 05

The manager of the Kinema, Mill Road, Cambridge was convicted for his part in conspiracies involving nine tons of rationed foodstuffs without the surrender of necessary permits and coupons in contravention of the Defence Regulations 1939. It involved more than 1½ tons of margarine worth about £190; six tons of sugar worth £360 and 1½ tons of butter valued at £300. He was sent to prison for six months.

1952 02 09

Long before the arrival of the ten-coach funeral train bearing the body of King George VI, large crowds had gathered at the main vantage points along the line at Ely to pay their homage. At the

station crossing hundreds of people assembled on both sides, whilst lines of traffic extended for some distance. Heads were bared as the train rolled smoothly through the station. Workmen who had given up part of their dinner hour and American servicemen were amongst the crowds. At the little village station of Waterbeach about 100 housewives, farmworkers and children gathered. A crowd of more than 800 people lined the marshalling yards on either side of Mill Road Bridge, Cambridge. The long black funeral coach, with all its windows blacked out passed exactly on time. Queen Elizabeth II gazed pensively out of a carriage window as the train passed a group of railwaymen standing caps off near Hills Road Bridge.

1953 05 22

The Playhouse Cinema on Mill Road, Cambridge, celebrates its 40th anniversary as a place of cinematic entertainment. It opened at Whitsun 1913 when there were two shows per evening with a children's matinee on Saturdays. Nowadays we are used to newsreels which are distributed on a national basis but then their own cameraman took the pictures for a newsreel of local interest, including the Cambridge Police Sports and Juvenile Fishing Match. Music was supplied by the Playhouse's own orchestra under Musical Director Max Bennett

1953 06 24

Over 100 cadets of the Cambridge District of the Order of the Sons of Temperance took part in a Coronation demonstration parade along Mill Road, headed by the Boy's Brigade Band. They were from the Hope of Cambridge, King's Own, Chesterton United and Beacon Societies. Several entered for the fancy dress competition which was judged by Mr & Mrs David Moore. The winners were, girls – Marjorie Mason (Spanish Lady), boys – Norman Knight (Guardsman). Decorated vehicle – Catherine Newman, doll's pram (golden coach).

1953 07 04

The pressure of 200 people waiting outside Rose's Fashion Centre in Sussex Street, Cambridge broke one of the shop windows. The sale was a real family affair, the husbands standing for the wives from the early hours until the woman of the family herself arrived to try and grab some of the bargains. There were four gabardine suits reduced from seven guineas (£7.35) to 15s (75p) and a grey Melange coat at £1 (original price £8.8s.) Many bargain hunters have been reaping the reward of the disastrous summer weather. At Tobin's of Mill Road they were clearing summer frocks for 10s (50p) which originally cost up to five times as much.

1953 08 25

While the National Radio Exhibition at Earls Court offers the best in radio and television under one roof, Cambridge's own exhibition goes on throughout the year in the windows and showrooms of the city's radio stores. Langham Radio Services of Mill Road have the Sobel 14-inch tv for 64 guineas or the Cossor 12-inch at 50 guineas. Morley & Duke offer a free demonstration in your own home of the Pye V4 television with automatic picture control which costs £64.18.0 or on H.P. at 15/- weekly.

1954 05 12

A baby girl born in Cambridge has the distinction of arriving in the world with six of her eight great-grandparents still alive. Susan Carole Fuller is the daughter of Mr & Mrs D.J. Fuller of Halifax Road. Her great grandparents on her father's side are Mr & Mrs W. Fuller aged 83 and 76 who now live in Wrexham, and Mr & Mrs B. Ager of Blinco Grove. On her mother's side they are Mr & Mrs V.F. Pursey of Mill Road. She also has 18 great aunts and uncles. This is most unusual and may be a record for Cambridge

1955 04 15

Cambridge fish and chip sellers have called the national newspaper strike 'a catastrophe'. Many London chippies are running a 'bring your own paper' campaign. Comics are no good as they are too small. The C.D.N. is in great demand but chip shops say they are fighting a losing battle with the housewife who relies on it for her fires, and things are getting difficult. Mr W. Wade of Mill Road says he can visualise people coming to collect fish suppers in a soup tureen or saucepan. 55 04 15

1955 06 25

Cambridge came out in the sun for the visit of the Regimental Band of the Coldstream Guards. Crowds lined the market square for the high spot of the day, a march past the Guildhall, and then jammed the roads as they marched to Christ's Pieces for a concert. The purpose of the visit was 'Good will and courtesy – with recruiting into the bargain'. Asked if there had been any results so far an official from the Mill Road recruiting office said 'Not yet, but we have a feeling there will be'. 55 06 25d

1955 07 08

A youth dressed in a dark grey 'Teddy Boy' suit pleaded guilty to two charges of assault following a fight between two 'Teddy Boys' at the Embassy Ballroom in Mill Road Cambridge. "I had a row with my girlfriend and started swinging out at everyone until somebody said the police were coming and I got frightened and ran away", he said. 55 07 08c

1956 02 25

Mill Road Library has been transformed from 'a barn of a place' to a branch library in keeping with the present-day idea of the service. The Reading Room that occupied more space than the lending library, which issues over 1,000 books on peak days, has been reduced in size yet will still accommodate more than 40 readers and the newspapers will be displayed on slopes and tables. 56 02 25c

1956 03 03

A neighbour complained about noises from the gentlemen's toilets at the Grasshopper public house on Mill Road and ash falling from their dustbins into her garden. But she had a grudge against the brewery & had complained about various things since 1935. The brewery had built a higher wall between them and tried to reduce noise by putting down rubber floor coverings. The license was renewed. 56 03 03c

1956 09 10

The garden in front of St Philip's Church, Mill Road, has been transformed into a Field of Remembrance by the Romsey British Legion. It is the only one in Cambridge and will give people the opportunity to place a cross in memory of those who gave their lives in two World Wars. A parade marched through pouring rain for the dedication service. 56 09 10b 9 (photo 56 09 10a)

1956 10 05

Mr & Mrs Ditchburn have seen many changes at Mill Road Maternity Hospital in the 22 years they have been Senior Administrative Officer and Matron. When they came in 1934 it was the County Infirmary and was mostly for old people. During the next five years a new wing was built, together with a new ward and theatre. Gradually the chronic patients became fewer and now there are only 23. During the war it was an emergency Medical Services Hospital with only one bed left for maternity patients. In 1934 there were only 56 births at the Hospital but 1,831 were recorded in 1954. 56 10 05a & b

1956 11 02

W. Holliman and Sons, the well-known Cambridge firm of removal contractors have again chosen a Morris vehicle for their fleet of pantechnicons. Every vehicle since 1926 has been a Morris, proof of their faith in this make. They are also house furnishers and their showrooms, the King Street Furniture Galleries, were the first 'Walk Round Showrooms' in Cambridge, dating back to 1923 when they moved from Mill Road. 56 11 02a

1956 12 14

Bill Oliver has been a Cambridge dustman since 1928, the year before mechanical transport came in. There are 33 such men, together with nine drivers for the nine lorries and a foreman at the Mill Road depot to act as a first-line peacemaker between them and the owners of dented dustbins. In all districts

there is forbidden garden rubbish, brick rubble, hot cinders, sump oils and liquids that make an untippable mulch of the refuse. 56 12 14c & d

1956 12 22

Raymond Bennett, the talented comedian and theatre manager laments the closing down of the Playhouse in Mill Road. It was there he made his debut as a single-turn music hall artiste. In those days it had a small orchestra and had one turn each week with the pictures. They included Godwin Hunt, baritone and humorous vocalist, George Gass, comedian of 'The Magpies' concert party and Sydney Pratt the conjurer. 56 12 22a & b

1957 04 06

In 1956 Messrs Holland was refused permission to erect a petrol filling station on the junction of Mill Road and Ross Street as was another in the area. This was obsolete, they claimed, with a limited forecourt. But its owner said there was no need for another – some evenings he did not have a single customer. Protestors fear it would attract additional motor traffic into a residential area, with noise, television interference and the smell of petrol. 57 04 06 & a

1957 05 23

Messrs C. Holland won their appeal to erect a petrol filling station on the corner of Ross Street and Mill Road. The site is at present occupied by a house and garden, the surrounding area is predominately residential but with some schools, shops, social clubs and industry. In such areas motorists prefer to fill their tanks locally at the start of the day & it would not increase traffic risks to children. 57 05 23

1958 01 09

A man told the bankruptcy court he had rented the Kinema Café, Mill Road in 1956 paying £12 a week which included everything. He worked hard to build up the business, taking about £8 a week for himself. But there was a fire in August 1957 which forced him to close for ten days and he was then hit by a rates demand. He was now employed as a kitchen hand at Waterbeach airfield. 58 01 09b

1958 01 24

A derailment in the Coldham's Lane arrival sidings, visible from Mill Road Bridge, attracted a good deal of public attention yesterday. Engine, tender and three wagons of a goods train came off the rails while the train was moving at reduced speed into the sidings. The driver and firemen got clear but the guard suffered some facial bruises. 58 01 24a

1958 07 24

Should there be shops on the corner of Coldham's Lane and Vinery Road? Two local shopkeepers, H. Wilson and H. Sykes, said there was no room for more shops in the area. Mill Road, East, is quite a substantial shopping centre; there are 80 to 90 shops at present with more planned. The houses in the area were built between 1928 and 1940 and that site was bought in 1924 for possible development as a public house. The owners had tried for shops, houses, flats and garages. Now they wanted a chemist's shop, fish shop and newsagents. 58 07 24 & a

1958 08 14

The Corporation Storeyard, Mill Road was severely damaged by fire. The alarm was raised by storekeeper, Mr Frederick Tungatt, who lives at the yard. Employees brought their own fire-fighting equipment into operation but as fast as the hoses played water on it the blaze spread rapidly and soon a large section of a store roof became an inferno of flames. More men rescued equipment including 'No Waiting' highways signs. The way they went about it – just as if the property were their own – earned the admiration of the City Surveyor, T.V. Burrows. 58 08 14 & a

1959 05 21

Mill Road fire Barney's – 59 05 21 & a

1960 03 17

The new Mill Road branch of Barclays Bank will be under the management of Mr C.R. Smith who is also manager of the Bank's Cherry Hinton Road branch. Barclays has had a small branch on Mill Road for some time, but the new one is larger and offers wider facilities. 60 03 17a

1960 04 01

Macintosh and Sons, the long-establish firm of ironmongers have moved their showrooms from Cambridge Market Hill to Mill Road owing to the congestion in the town centre. "The days have gone when farmers could pull up with their horse and trap to purchase instruments", they say. From the new warehouse and instrument shed they sell anything from a hand tool to a combine harvester costing over £2,000. Nearby stands the foundry that was in use until 30 years ago where they made lamp standards and ploughshares for the Town Council. 60 04 01a

1960 04 07

The owner of the Kinema Café in Mill Road said that when he took it over in 1957 he tried to make it attractive and spent a great deal of money on putting it in order. At first he deterred teenagers by taking out the automatic phonograph and tried to attract the student trade by dressing up the tables with white cloths and menu card. But this failed. The only clients he could draw were teenagers, 85 per cent of the sales were of tobacco and the rest cups of tea. 60 04 07

1960 08 06

Mill Road Railway Bridge was built in 1889 and Percy North, the well-known chiropodist, remembers playing under the bridge arches when they were being constructed. There was a level crossing over the railway then but it was not much used because there was hardly any traffic. There was nothing beyond, Great Eastern Street and Argyle Street were just ballast pits for the railway and the only house was a large one where the Broadway stands today, he recalls. 60 08 06 & a

1960 10 14

Romsey has gained new shopping facilities with the opening of the Co-operative Society's Supermarket in Mill Road. It occupies practically the whole block between Catharine Street and Thoday Street and is a complete transformation of their former grocery, butchery, pharmacy and cottage property. The shop front features anodised aluminium metal work while the four check-out stations are finished in an attractive shade of plastic. 60 10 14b

1960 10 21

New Co-op supermarket, Mill Road – 60 10 21aa

1961 02 04

Three years ago there were perhaps one or two West Indians working in Cambridge. Now the number must fast be approaching 100. They have all been invited by the Cambridge Brotherhood to attend their international service at the Mill Road Baptist Church when the address will be delivered by Canon Hay, the Chaplain appointed by the Anglican Church to serve Jamaican immigrants. The invitation is extended to all friends and includes a social gathering after the service 61 02 04a

1961 05 09

The whole of 'The Broadway' on Mill Road is being put up for sale. It runs from Cavendish Road to Sedgwick Street and is the largest shopping area in the eastern half of Cambridge. It was built 23 years ago and consists of 14 shops with eight flats above. The London company that owns the site says it is a good investment: the properties currently realise £2,848 a year in rents which will increase to more than £4,000 in three years' time. 61 05 09

1961 05 16

The Broadway, Mill Road sold for £35,000 – 61 05 16

1961 08 10

Last summer's bad weather was the culmination of the vicissitudes faced by an Italian ex-prisoner of war. Gaetano Risitano, who traded as 'Guys', bought an ice cream business on Mill Road but problems started when he became involved in litigation with the previous owner. This was followed by a bad season in 1960 and profits were not big enough to support his outgoings so he put it up for sale. 61 08 10

1961 11 01

When the Prince of Wales inaugurated the new butt and parade ground of the Cambridge University Rifle Volunteers at Grange Road in October 1861 he presented a cup described as 'of massive silver, but chaste in design – a kneeling rifleman surmounting the lid, in the act of taking aim'. It is still awarded to the best shot at 1,000 yards. The Corps at first had a ground on Mill Road in conjunction with the 1st Cambridgeshire (Town Corps) but the range was found to be too short. The Grange Road ground consisted of two fields with the butt at the extreme end. 61 11 01

1962 10 03

Supplies of salt are fast running out at Cambridge grocery shops as people adopt a 'do-it-yourself' policy towards clearing away the snow from their doorsteps. In two of the largest stores stocks of block or crushed cooking salt are negligible. But there is still plenty at the Corporation store yard in Mill Road despite a considerable amount being used on the streets. Hard-packed frozen snow still prevails on all roads and overnight fog reduced visibility. One result of the snow-up in Royston was the postponement of the meeting of the Urban Council 62 10 03

1963 02 01

Macintosh and Sons of Market Hill, Cambridge, one of the oldest ironmongery firms in the country, has been sold to an unknown purchaser. The firm's earliest records date back to 1688 when the business was sold to the Finch family. They kept it going for 200 years before it was taken over by William Macintosh who'd been in business in Sidney Street. A major redevelopment scheme is proposed for the site after their retail premises close in September. The wholesale, agricultural and workshop departments will continue to trade from 349 Mill Road 63 02 01a

1962 05 03

An inquiry into the Bradmore Street area heard that 119 houses between Petersfield, East Road, Broad Street and the CCAT were unfit for human habitation and should be demolished under the slum clearance plan. The area would be used for extensions to the college and the Mill Road Sorting Office. But six householders objected. One lady had lived in her home for 50 years, she was 89 and blind and would find it difficult to move. Another had been deaf and dumb from birth; she had lived there for 54 years and was frightened at the prospect of being relocated. 62 05 03a

1962 08 16

The Cam Foundry in Thompson's Lane once had 20 men making cast iron, lamp posts, grating and road ironworks. Friday was the usual day for mould filling. The fire could be kindled in the cupola early in the morning and loaded up with hard furnace coke. The furnaceman was a real 'character'. A labourer, tough and very strong he would swing a 32 lb hammer to break up the scrap and pig iron. He distained the use of gloves or goggles, his bare hands and unprotected eyes in constant danger from molten splashes and sparks. It closed in 1923 and Messrs Macintosh transferred the business to the old Romsey Town cement works at Mill Road 62 08 16a & b

1962 10 18

Mill Road cemetery gravestones – 62 10 18

1962 11 28

Post office sorting department in Mill Road demolition – photo – 62 11 28a

1964 01 07

Plans for a 24-lane ten-pin bowling alley on Mill Road have been approved subject to conditions that the premise should be closed between midnight and 8am. It would include a snack bar, changing rooms, kitchen and offices. But now developers want to extend the project to include either a dance floor or ice-rink, a public house with flat over, service station with office and parking for 150 cars. 64 01 07

1964 09 02

No new industries employing more than five people will be established and only a moderate expansion of those existing will be approved, says the Minister of Housing in his review of the Cambridge Town Map. The inner relief road will be rerouted to take it clear of Jesus College grounds and Marshall's garage and the Western Bypass will now run next to the University Observatory and behind properties in Storey's Way. Local shopping centres will be expanded at Mitcham's Corner, Mill Road and at the corner of Alex Wood Road. There will also be a car park to the south of Silver Street. 64 09 02

1964 10 12

Mill Road shift workers say dustbins left in darkened streets are a menace and danger. Residents drag their dustbins into the street ready for an early collection. But at midnight all the street lights go out and people bump into them in the blackness of dreadful dustbin alleys. Elderly people say refuse collectors could take bins from the rear of their homes. But this would mean dustmen going through their houses. 64 10 12a

1965 01 14

Smart & Son, the outfitters in Market Street, has been run by the same family for more than 150 years. But now they are to move to Mill Road and the shop sold – 65 01 14

1965 02 08

The world's largest and most advanced amateur television station is based in Jeremy Royle's home at Duddenhoe End and he puts out a regular transmission each evening. Another station is owned by Douglas Wiles of Mill Road whose equipment and home-made camera is fitted into his living room. Both are members of the Cambridge Amateur Radio Club and the audience consists of about half-a-dozen people who can switch on their transmitter and chat to the figure on the screen. The availability of cheap war surplus material gave amateur radio and television a boost in the post-war years but today the supplies have died away 65 02 08c

1965 03 13

Mill Road bowling alley work progresses – photo – 65 03 13b

1965 04 08

Mill Road bowling alley to open – feature – 65 04 08c

1966 02 25

Mill Road becoming a coloured area – organisation to give practical help to immigrants – 66 02 25, a

1966 03 12

Kinema cinema, Mill Road closing; has 400 seats and staff of seven. Owner is George Webb. It may continue as cinema under new ownership – 66 03 12a

1967 04 27

Lloyds Bank alterations to Mill Road branch; now light & airy – 67 04 27b

1968 02 16

Mill Road Broadway shops with flats over sold for double price of seven years ago – 68 02 16

1968 05 01

E.J. How, Mill Road, baker for 100 years – 68 05 01

1968 08 30

Mill Road library issues drop due parking restrictions – 68 08 30

1960 07 04

P.O. Reed, hairdresser started 53 Trumpington St, 1946 to Mill Road, then King St etc – history – 60 07 04

1969 10 08

Mill Road maternity hospital premature baby unit opened – 69 10 08

1970 02 17

Tenpin bowling rink, Mill Road, shuts down suddenly by Magnet Bowling who opened it in 1965 – 70 02 17

1971 06 17

Toilet at East Road – Mill Road junction being demolished – 71 06 17a

1971 10 10

First automatic mail sorting machines delivered to Post Office in Mill Road – 71 10 10

1972 06 14 c

People living in Norfolk Street and Gwydir Street made it clear at a meeting in Cambridge that they want some peace and quiet - and soon. They want to be able to park their cars free outside their own homes and are calling for rapid police action to enforce parking bans in the area. Half the 1,400 vehicles recorded during a 13-hour period were using the narrow roads in the area as a short cut between Mill Road and East Road

1972 08 04

Cambridge housewives face soaring prices this weekend as thousands of tons of vital imports lie strike-bound in Britain's ports. Fruit and meat imports are the biggest casualties of the national dock strike which entered its second week today. In Cambridge the Mill Road greengrocers, Clements have raised the price of imported Granny Smith apples from 11p to 14p a pound, while bananas are up from 8p to 11p a pound. At Tesco, in Regent Street, the manager said they had run out of bananas, but oranges and apples were still available and had not gone up. Tomatoes however had risen by about 5p to 18p a pound

1972 10 31

Twenty-five thousand second class letters are being deliberately held up every night at the Post office's mechanised sorting centre in Mill Road, Cambridge. The letters are sorted into bundles by the 2pm to 10pm shift ready for loading on to trains from Cambridge. But they do not leave the centre until the next morning after the rest of the second class post has been sorted. Assistant Post-master for Cambridge, Mr Reginald Starkey said "It is a second class standard of service. They have paid only 21/2 pence". Ironically it is only the second class post which goes through the £500,000 worth of equipment installed at the Mill Road office five months ago

1973 09 28

A group called the Romsey Town project intend to open a cafe which will serve as a community centre, discussion room and open newsroom for their paper "Romsey News". The paper, which is self-supporting at 2p a copy has a circulation of 1,500. Jean White, an organiser, said "The people of Romsey Town get a rough deal in Cambridge as far as amenities are concerned. There is no cinema - only pubs and the Labour Club. There is no real centre for the town as Mill Road carries traffic straight through - though in my opinion the shopping centre is better than the centre of Cambridge. We have joked about charging higher prices depending on the length of hair so that the cafe will not become a student centre from the University"

1973 09 28

The cost of improving and modernising the public library at Mill Road, Cambridge, has risen to £13,790 due to inflation. For a number of years the Library Committee have had a programme of improvements they hoped to make to some of their ageing branch libraries. But repeatedly the economy-conscious city council have cut back on the projects. This year they agreed that the Mill Road scheme could go ahead to brighten up and repair the buildings. But since the estimates were received inflation has taken its toll

1973 10 19

A £13,000 facelift for Mill Road branch library in Cambridge has been shelved by the city council to leave their architects free to concentrate on housing schemes. The Library Committee were forced to postpone the modernisation plan after hearing that it would be caught in the Government's current economic policy to cut back local council's capital spending. Mill Road was to have been the first of three branch libraries in the city to be modernised with new lighting, decorations and layout. Those at Rock Road and Milton Road were to follow. Members agreed to contact the new Cambridgeshire County Council, who will take over libraries in April, to ask them to consider the three schemes sympathetically

1974 02 08

Cambridge city council's controversial plan to stop Gwydir Street being used as a short-cut between East Road and Mill road has come into action and already shopkeepers are reporting trading losses of up to 50%. Norfolk street, once continually busy with traffic, is now silent and virtually at a standstill. And the shopkeepers of the street are beginning to wonder if they might soon be at a standstill too. Mrs Linda Gregoris who owns the Athena restaurant lent on her broom and surveyed the five customers. "It is 11am and normally this place is chock-a-block and people have to fight for a seat. Yesterday we had five people in here – normally it would be as many as 80"

1974 06 04

The site of the Co-operative laundry in Cambridge, which closed at Easter, is now up for sale. The company bought the site in Histon road during the last war and began operations in 1941. At their peak 100 people worked there compared to the 60 at the time of their closure. "The problem was getting staff. It was terrible," said the Chief executive. They are keeping open three shops at Histon Road, Arbury Court and Mill Road

1974 11 11

Sir – In the death of Mrs Doris Ditchburn, Cambridge has lost a much-loved citizen who will be missed by a wide circle. She and her husband came to Cambridge in 1934 to work at the old County Hospital in Mill Road. Together they worked to improve the standards of the hospital and towards her dream of a first-rate maternity hospital. Mrs Ditchburn was a most understanding person and most unlike the old-fashioned dragon of a matron, but insisted on a high standard from her nurses and gained their affection and respect. – Margaret Reed

1975 01 17

Until Sainsbury's opened their new filling station alongside the supermarket in Coldham's Lane, Holland Motors at the end of Mill Road provided the cheapest petrol in Cambridge. Sainsbury's station opened this week offering 4-star petrol only and no other forecourt services. Their price of 68p a gallon is regarded as something of an opening offer. Holland motors comes second with 4-star at 71p a gallon. The dearest is Oliver Rix at 74p

1975 02 14

For many months Andy's record stall has been one of the biggest market square attractions in the country. And with the opening of his new shop in Mill Road, Cambridge, Andy Gray has achieved another success. Opened by "Mr Top Twenty", Alan Freeman, the shop already houses more than 500 LPs covering the whole spectrum of folk, country and western, rock, motown and soul. There is also a

cassette corner in the new shop. They will continue to offer discounts of between 50p and 90p off most LPs and albums.

1975 03 03

The first gas-powered police car takes to the road today. With gas at about 30p a gallon and the cost of conversion from petrol to gas around £140 the car should be saving taxpayers' money in September. But police want to find out any problems that may crop up before committing themselves to spending money on more conversions. Other vehicles owned by the county council also fill up from the big storage tank in the Corporation yard, Mill Road, Cambridge

1975 03 25

Cambridge pubs range from grimy to gracious according to a drinker's guide just published by a group of undergraduates. Grime, according to the guide, is synonymous with the Locomotive pub in Mill Road, and grace is one of the virtues of the Plough Inn at Fen Ditton. Praise is lavished on the "thematic scheme" of the Galleon bar in the Burleigh Arms, Newmarket Road. The Free Press has "exceptional character" and the Baker's Arms, East Road, is called a "refreshing surprise". The Bun Shop, Downing Street is said to be "something of a Cambridge institution and well worth a visit"

1975 04 11

It is difficult to equate gastronomic expertise with Mill Road, Cambridge. But when faced with a fancy for honest French cuisine it is just the place to go. For although La Garconne is a modest restaurant there is nowhere else quite like it. There is the temptation of pigeon in red wine (£1.10), or a casserole of rabbit (£1). Unfortunately the coq au vin (£1.35) was not ready until later in the evening. A brandy at 40p rounded off a very good meal for two which cost £7.86. It is possible to have an equally satisfying meal for two, with wine, for just under £4. By today's standards that is pretty good.

1975 04 15

Eight old houses near the railway line, at Mill Road, Cambridge, are being offered by the city council, which owns them, to dossers and down-and-outs. The houses are scheduled for eventual demolition to allow British Rail to widen the bridge when it starts work on electrifying the main Cambridge-London line. But because no date has been set the council has offered them on an annual basis to Cambridge Night Shelter. The council considers the houses which stand on the Argyle Street corner to be suitable because there are no other occupied houses immediately adjacent.

1975 06 27

Sky-rocketing potato prices look like forcing many Mid-Anglian fish & chip shops into temporary closure. With new potatoes being quoted at upwards of £170 a ton owners are saying: "either we put up our prices and lose customers, or we shut for a while". "None of us want to sell chips at 14p a portion", said Mr Jack Holliday of the Quality Fish Shop in Mill Road. If he increased his price for a portion of chips from 8p to 12p or alternatively halved the size of the portion the public would cringe, he added.

1976 03 10

Two Cambridge brothers have just completed 50 years in the bakery business. Maurice and Dennis How, the bakers and confectioners in Mill Road started in the business by chance after leaving school. "Our father, who ran the business, was taken ill and had to go into hospital", explained Maurice. "There was no one else to take over and keep things going. When we started a large loaf cost four pence in old money. Now the same sort of loaf is 17p". Their father, Mr John How, started business at Shelford in 1868 and moved to Mill Road in 1901

1976 11 16

One-time superstar Billy J. Kramer, who had a string of world-wide hits in the 60's, walked down Mill Road, Cambridge, looking for a sauna. The more exotic delights of the street didn't quite capture his imagination. Later at Romsey Labour Club his hour-long show combined new material with well-

rehearsed medleys of old hits. By the end of the night people were standing on tables, clapping, stamping and cheering as he ran for the door to a waiting get-away car

1977 03 30

Motorists pushed and fought their way to the petrol pumps in a panic-stricken rush to fill up before prices rose. Service stations were forced to close to save their remaining stocks and stop the motoring stampede. When news of the increase was announced on the radio Holland's garage, Cambridge, was one of the first to be besieged. A line of traffic stretched halfway along Mill Road and motorists, jealously guarding their place in the queue, were not even letting other cars out of the garage. At Huntingdon one petrol pump attendant said motorists had appeared to have "gone berserk" at the budget news

1977 04 06

Mill Road Maternity Hospital in Cambridge, a former workhouse, was slammed for its cramped and appalling conditions. A report highlights overcrowding, complete lack of privacy for patients, appalling residences for nurses & pregnant women having to sit clad only in a dressing gown in draughty corridors waiting for attention. It is virtually impossible to expand the hospital, access is difficult and car parking impossible. This is a disgraceful state of affairs for a maternity hospital doing the standard of work that Cambridge does. It should be replaced by a 100-bed obstetrics hospital on the New Addenbrooke's site as soon as finance is available

1977 05 17

Mill Road Maternity Hospital in Cambridge is medically second to none. The staff is good, the equipment the most up-to-date ... but both are severely hampered by "appalling conditions" in the cramped old workhouse building. There is intense congestion in the antenatal clinic. Patients using the modern ultra-sound equipment have a long walk in their dressing gowns to reach a draughty corridor where they have to set near swing doors leading out of the hospital. Another £15,000 ultra-sound machine is being purchased but no-one knows where it can be placed. But the neo-natal care unit for new-born babies is regarded as probably one of the best in the country.

1977 08 26

A campaign has been launched against the threatened closure of the Mill Road public library, Cambridge. It library is one of six which may close because of lack of money caused by severe cutbacks in Government grants. The County Librarian, Royston Brown, said the library needed £15,000 worth of repairs – and the county council did not have that sort of money. But the Romsey area has the highest percentage of old people in the city who use it as a daily reading room because they cannot afford to buy newspapers and magazines

1977 09 10

The prospect of severe bread famine saw about 300 people waiting outside bread shops in Mill Road before they were open. About 80 per cent of the bread sold in the city comes from the big bakeries now on strike. At Spillers-French Baking in Sleaford Street, which makes about half of the bread sold in the area, 100 bakers joined the strike. Some small bakeries are limiting sales to one or two loaves or serving regular customers first. The joint owner of one of Cambridge's smaller bakeries, Mr Jim Markillie, accused housewives of hoarding.

1977 12 22

Cambridge is not short of record shops, so what chance has another one got? The answer, says Andy Gray, is plenty. His latest shop "The Beat Goes On" is something out of the ordinary in that it caters for those interested in "golden oldies" and New Wave records. They specialise in records up to the 1970s and have on display portraits of "The Jam" who opened the shop on Friday. The new shop in Regent Street supplements the premises opened in Mill Road three years ago and Andy's Record Stall on Cambridge market which is still a gathering place for music lovers.

1978 01 20

Dozens of public libraries throughout Cambridgeshire will double up as social and community centres if a pilot scheme is a success. They could be used as meeting centres, law and political ‘surgeries’, advice centres, or simply as places where young mothers or elderly people with time on their hands could meet and chat over cups of tea. The social and community uses would run alongside the general library function as much as possible – but would also continue after library hours. The Mill Road branch library in Cambridge, which is threatened with closure, would be an ideal site for the pilot scheme. The county council sees the dual-use project as a way of raising extra cash for buying books for the libraries, which are threatened with severe cuts because of cuts in Government grants

1978 03 03

No public libraries in Cambridgeshire will be closed this year – and books stocks will not be depleted – although the County Council is facing a continuing financial crisis. The council had threatened to close the Milton Road and Mill Road libraries in Cambridge, village libraries at Stapleford and Milton and two libraries in Peterborough. The threats caused storms of protest and now financial experts have discovered the council has saved £60,000 on last year’s spending which can be used to buy new books.

1978 04 06

Quietly and without fuss our daily bread got dearer this week, with the news that the big three bakeries were adding 2p to the cost of a “standard” sliced and wrapped loaf, bringing the cost up to 28½ p. In Cambridge the price of farmhouse loaves is left to the baker. Bridgeman Bros of Norfolk Street charge 30½ p for a very crusty, tasty and attractive loaf; Tylers of Mill Road charge 30p, & E.J. How and Godfreys of Regent Street 29p. The most expensive are Dixon’s of Fitzroy Street & Maskell’s of Victoria Road who charge 31p for a pale golden, high, crusty, loaf

1978 05 27

The Government is to give £40,000 towards a controversial plan to convert the Methodist Church in Mill Road, Cambridge into a youth centre for the Romsey area. Objectors are concerned about traffic noise and vandalism that might result from the centre. But it will always be supervised, no alcohol will be served and most of the children will be too young to drive motor bikes or cars. It is designed to take trouble-makers off the streets and give them something to do

1978 11 04

A wave of panic buying hit shops as housewives rushed to buy bread a full three days before a threatened national bakers’ strike is due to start. Sainsbury’s store in Coldham’s Lane Cambridge has rationed people to just two loaves and How’s bakery in Mill Road said that all stocks were sold out by lunchtime. A Tesco in Regent Street exceptionally heavy buying emptied the shop of bread by mid-morning. Anxious shoppers out to stock up their freezers with loaves were described as “greedy” by shopkeepers. The strike is not yet a certainty and independent bakeries are not involved.

1979 01 08

Romsey Methodist Church in Mill Road, Cambridge will have its final service before closing down. The congregation will continue to worship in the nearby Diocesan Chapel in Romsey Terrace. After alterations it will reopen as a youth and community centre. The church buildings will become a gymnasium, the hall will remain a youth club and a coffee bar and social centre will be built onto the car park. It is also hoped to include a quiet room and tv den. The main users will be a playgroup, over-60s and youngsters. The scheme is being organised by five Cambridge churches.

1979 01 26

Cambridge came to a halt early today in the worst traffic chaos for decades. Ungritted icy roads produced a nightmare tangle of cars and lorries which choked all main roads into the city for up to three hours. Dozens of car drivers abandoned their vehicles and walked into work and thousands of schoolchildren waited in vain for buses which failed to get further than the road outside the bus depot. The traffic only began to move again when council workers broke picket lines outside the Mill Road depot and brought gritting lorries back into action

1979 02 27

The long-awaited scheme for adding a community centre complex to the Mill Road public library in Cambridge has been given the go-ahead. It aims to inject new life into the old building which had been in danger of closure. But this sparked a furious row and after intensive public pressure the county council relented and agreed the refurbishing and extension plan as a way of keeping the building open, reducing costs and keeping everybody happy. It will become a blue-print for other dual-use projects

1979 07 31

Pubs in and around Cambridge have come in for bitter criticism in a new guide written by two undergraduates. The Rose in Rose Crescent is described as a 'seedy little place in a seedy little street. Gay Cambridge meets there, which says little for their taste'. The Maypole in Park Street is described as a 'grotty little dive hidden rightly under the car park', the Carpenters Arms in Victoria Road is 'without redeeming feature; extremely anti-student clientele who would have beaten us up if they hadn't been so drunk. Dark and spooky'. The Locomotive in Mill Road 'ought to be exorcised, its evil ... the worst pub in Cambridge' while the Midland Tavern is, they say, 'the most notorious pub in town with a reputation for being a centre of vice'. One landlord replied: "It's about time the University made these little boys do some work for their degrees ... they speak too much claptrap"

1979 09 17

The mobile library being used while Cambridge's Mill Road library is being repaired has received a parking ticket while operating outside the building. It has now moved to Great Eastern Street on the other side of the railway bridge. Now there are fears that its isolation and lack of electricity will force its closure, leaving thousands of Romsey residents without a library. The police action has angered Cambridge councillors; Coun Sweeney said: "I have asked the City Surveyor if he could get a pot of black paint and paint out the yellow lines so the library can remain there. It is no use moving to Great Eastern Street because that area too is earmarked for double yellow lines"

1979 09 28

They carry on the business of life and death at Mill Road Maternity Hospital in what is little better than a clinical slum. Yet when the question of replacing it comes up this week, those with the power to close it are committed to keeping it open for another 10 years. In that time all that stands between the death of a baby, the death of a mother, or both, is the determination of the highly-motivated people who work there. But it snows on the patients in the X-ray department and there is only one lavatory for a dozen pregnant women. The operating theatre needs creosoting – it's an ex-Army hut – and boxes, bottles and laundry-bags litter the tunnel they call corridors.

1979 11 27

An expectant mother enters Cambridge's Mill Road Maternity Hospital in one of two ways: through an archway of plastic urine bottles or under a boiler-house chimney stack. In the ante-natal clinic she will jostle for space with dozens of other mothers and give her personal details within earshot of whoever happens to be next to her. She may have to squeeze past other patients in the narrow corridor to take her urine sample to the little window. The corridors are bad enough for people of normal size to pass each other but pregnancy makes it nearly impossible. Should the birth prove difficult she may have to go to the theatre – an ex-Army hut wooden hut built for Dunkirk wounded during the war. The nurses find it a tough place to work, but they're proud of their record – they lose fewer babies than anywhere else in the country.

1979 12 14

Still-born babies are being ferried by taxi from Cambridge's maternity hospital to the mortuary at Addenbrooke's Hospital because of inadequate facilities at Mill Road. Twice a week a hospital porter makes the grisly two-mile journey carrying an anonymous coffin – a small stone-coloured metal box. This morbid shuttle-service accounts for just a few of the two dozen emergency runs made each week by S & H Taxis, often with a police escort to beat the traffic jams.

1980 04 19

Mill Road Library, Cambridge, which faced closure three years ago, has been given a new lease of life with a £30,000 facelift. During the five-month renovation work the library staff operated from temporary mobile quarters, which on one occasion collected a parking ticket. The library includes a new community meeting room in place of the old reading room. County councillor Jean Ganczarski who protested against the planned closure said; "It is very good to think the building has now got a new life" 80 04 19b

1980 05 24

There is little chance that Cambridge will have a new maternity hospital before 1988. Plans to resite it had been agreed in 1961 but constantly deferred because of lack of funds. The Government says there is no doubt the present buildings in Mill Road are dreadful and the facilities inadequate. Ways are being found to relieve some of the pressure; pregnancies would no longer be terminated there – giving more beds – and the closure of the Grange maternity unit at Ely means that more midwives were available so more mother could give birth at home. 80 05 24a

1980 05 28

Once over the railway bridge Cambridge's Mill Road takes on the atmosphere of a village. The roads and pavements widen and in spite of the busy traffic, the pace of life seems to slacken. It is a street where you can enjoy sauntering along, enjoying the many and varied shops. There is K.S. Neale which specialises in door handles and locks, David Neech's where you can buy an electric organ and Surefit the stretch cover specialists. Cornwell's is a fascinating shop to browse through looking for bargains, piled from floor to ceiling with new and second-hand furniture 80 05 28 & a

1960 05 30

Mothers in the Ely area cannot have their babies at home despite assurances this would compensate for the closure of the Grange maternity unit. Parliament was told that most mothers would now be expected to use the RAF Hospital freeing midwives for home deliveries. But there are none capable of providing 24-hour cover and the RAF hospital is not staffed to provide a flying squad. The nearest cover is at Mill Road, Cambridge where there is one midwife working a 40-hour week and the other who backs her up has a 10-mile radius to cover. 80 05 30a

1980 06 13

Britain's top maternity hospital is the one in Mill Road, Cambridge – and that's official. It handles the most difficult births and a fifth of all babies in the region are born there. Government figures show that it copes with 4,000 births annually, many referred from other hospitals for specialist care, but its only operating theatre is a wooden shed built for the Dunkirk wounded during the last War. 80 06 13

1980 07 02

Cambridge is now left with only one regular nightly music spot following the closure of the Beaconfield and Alex Wood Halls and the Alma pub, mainly because of complaints of noise. But there are at least 40 bands desperate for somewhere to play and countless people who want to hear live music. The Carioca Club on Newmarket Road is willing to let bands play on Tuesday nights but at a total rental cost of £115 bands can't afford it while the Salisbury Conservative Club on Mill Road is almost fully booked until 1982. It leaves just the Great Northern Hotel. 80 07 02b

1980 08 20

A nationally-famous armchair hedge in Mill Road, Cambridge, has gone up in flames. Mr Thomas Conroy had carefully trimmed it over the past six years into the shape of an armchair as 'a bit of nonsense'. Countless tourists have taken snapshots of it. But now the house has changed hands and the hedge has been dug up and burned because its roots were threatening to cause problems to the foundations. 80 08 20

1980 12 04

Cambridge's Mill Road is ideal for bargain-hunting. Inghams has one shop entirely devoted to carpets and another with furniture and bedding at the least possible price for top-quality merchandise. The Children's Shop, situated a few yards from the Maternity Hospital, caters for the important needs of premature babies. Easiglaze Windows can show how your new replacement windows could look in your home – no more choosing from brochures while W.F. Webb is one of the best-known in the area; they have been supplying customers since the very early days of radio. 80 12 04c

1981 05 14

Since 1962 the price of a semi in Perne Road Cambridge has risen from £3,000 to £30,000 and in De Freville it is much higher. The leap in prices in the early 1970s meant that first-time buyers they turned to the Mill Road area and prices rocketed. If you had bought a terraced house in Romsey Town in 1962 it would have cost £1,350. Now it is worth more than £20,000. 81 05 14c

1981 05 15

Cambridge ecologists say a bus which can run on railway lines is the solution to transport problems in local villages. They plan to borrow a prototype and run it from the city centre to Huntingdon, using British Rail's tracks. It would stop at Mill Road, Chesterton and North Arbury as well as the former stations en route to Swavesey. From this point the tracks have been removed but it would run along the trackbed to St Ives and the Hemingfords. 81 05 15a

1981 08 05

Mill Road may be made one-way heading out of the city if new plans by residents go ahead. But the scheme has already run into opposition. One councillor said: 'We think the idea is daft'. Mill Road has a worse accident record for pedestrians and cyclists than any other in Cambridge but it is one thing to stop up some side streets to prevent rat-runs by motorists and quite another to cut a major city road. 81 08 05

1981 09 04

As a midwife, Phyllis Baker has brought 2,001 babies into the world. She started at Mill Road Hospital in 1940 when the maternity ward was full of pregnant evacuees and most local people had their babies at home - only going into hospital if there was something wrong or her housing conditions were particularly bad. She has made numerous friends: "I walked into Sainsbury's and somebody said 'Hello, Nurse Barker, this is one of yours' pointing to her child". 81 09 04

1982 09 08

Frank Holland Motors was formed 25 years ago with the franchise for Hillman and Sunbeam cars, then in 1966 they obtained the distributorship for Simca on their present site at Mill Road. Four years later Frank Holland took over a second garage in Coldham's Lane trading as F.H. Motors and selling Datsuns. They have now introduced the Holland Hyperwash – a new-style car wash centre which can handle 60 cars an hour. 82 09 08a

1982 09 28

Jack Lowe, the Cambridge man who founded a chain of do-it-yourself shops, has died. He learned his trade as a plumber with the building firm of William Saint which collapsed in the Great Depression and set up his own plumbing business in 1936. He opened a tool shop in Mill Road in the late 1940s and eventually established one of the first D-I-Y shops in the city. 82 09 28

1983 04 19

Regional health chiefs delivered a massive snub to both Cambridge City and the University by placing the Mill Road maternity unit and the old Addenbrooke's Hospital sites on the open market. They will go to the highest bidder which rules out the chance of the city buying Mill Road for an old peoples' sheltered housing scheme. They have also disregarded a gentleman's agreement with the University to give them first refusal on the Addenbrooke's site which is worth between £1 and £2 million. 83 04 19 p12

1983 04 23

Les Neal is retiring after half-a-century of dedicated, devoted and skilful service as a gentleman's hairdresser. Apprenticed at the age of 14 in 1932 to Walter George Ambrose, he served with the Przyborsky business in Round Church Street before moving to Watson's in Mill Road. He is a dedicated supporter and leader of the Scout movement and an enthusiastic and expert player of the bagpipes. – Frank Matthews. 83 04 23

1983 07 07

Cambridge pianist Doris Waterson began her career playing for silent films at the old Playhouse in Mill Road. She played ballet and modern dance music for the Perse Girls and the old County Schools but was best known as pianist with Josephine's Gypsy Orchestra. It was formed about 1934 and played for 26 years at venues such as Christ's Pieces bandstand. Doris also had her own band called the Keynotes and worked during the war with Alice Reynolds who organised concert parties for troops. 83 07 07 p16

1983 12 02

Houses which look like a two-up and two-down off Mill Road are being sold for more than £60,000. But the going price for most standard houses there is only half this figure. For more than 10 years unfashionable backstreets such as Gwydir Street have been gradually taken over by young couples and modernised. Since the Kite has been finally settled dozens of little houses on the perimeter are undergoing vast changes. 83 12 02 p13

1984 01 24

The old maternity hospital at Mill Road will be bought by Cambridge City Council. Now it has won its battle against commercial rivals it will develop the site as a multi-million pound housing complex for young and old people. At an estimated price of £750,000 it is the city's most expensive residential land deal and to help recoup some of the money the council is considering renting some of the old buildings to the Cambridgeshire College of Arts and Technology. 84 01 24 p5

1984 01 30

Furious traders in Mill Road are drawing battle lines for a fight with the city council over traffic congestion. They claim trade has slumped and traffic conditions deteriorated since the council installed traffic lights at Mill Road bridge. Shopkeepers are fed up with constant jams and complaints from the customers who say it can take half an hour to drive from the old Maternity Hospital to their shops in Romsey town. 84 01 30 p6

1984 02 27

The traffic lights at Mill Road Bridge could be turned off for good. It is a move which would delight thousands of Cambridge road users and please traders who claim their businesses have suffered. The lights were installed in June at the request of the city council traffic management team who were concerned about the rising accident rate. They thought many vehicles were using it only as a short cut. But accidents have risen faster since they were put in and road users started an immediate outcry, complaining about long, frustrating delays. 84 02 27 p12

1984 03 22

The row of railway cottages by Mill Road Bridge were once attractive homes. Now the windows are bricked up, the garden is a wilderness of weeds and the walls show only the attention of local spray paint artists. Inside the story is worse, Candles light the damp rooms and empty bottles and baked beans congesting in half-opened cans are the remains of countless unappetising suppers. But a judge has refused to evict the squatters immediately so that the city council can sell them to the Cambridge Housing Society who want to turn them into a home for the homeless. 84 03 22 p7

1984 03 23

The vexed question of whether Cambridge's traffic problems are real or illusory will be a recurring theme of future discussions as a result of the decision to scrap Mill Road traffic lights. The faces of

traders lit up at the news that the lights on the bridge were – finally – going out. Traffic mandarins have persisted in introducing more and more lights throughout Cambridge. The Station Road lights are another example where traffic management has gone awry yet there is no sign these will be removed. 84 03 23 p20

1984 08 25

Traffic experts say there is now no way in which traffic flow down Mill Road can be reduced but they can reduce accidents by switching their sights to the side roads. The new plans would inconvenience residents and local workers by banning cars from certain streets and putting in 'sleeping policemen' in Vinery Road. With a number of turning bans into Mill Road, traffic along Tenison Road will be increased dramatically but new traffic lights will improve the flow. 84 08 25 p1

1984 09 28

Cambridge's oldest greengrocer's business, Naylor's of Mill Road which has been trading since January 1900 has closed. It was founded by William Thomas Naylor who moved from his family's farm at Duck End, Guilden Morden. Before long he had opened a second shop, now a delicatessen and a greengrocer's in Norfolk Street. The Mill Road shop had a better clientele in those days. Many of the houses were owned by fairly wealthy families. Now they are let as bed-sitters and most of the custom has been from students. Doctors and maternity hospital staff were good customers but the hospital has now closed. Courgettes, kiwi fruit and aubergines have joined traditional English products in recent years. 84 09 28

1984 09 07

"The colonel" was one of Cambridge's best-known characters in the 50s and 60s, John Ingersol Turpin was the oldest of the brothers who ran a timber yard in Mill Road. It started in 1929 selling timber from Sweden, Russia and Canada but supplies stopped in 1939 so he started attending household sales. He became as well-known for his second-hand goods shop as his timber-selling; people often spoke of the wonderful bargains they bought for a few shillings, his daughter Margaret Lusher recalled 84 09 07

1984 10 24

Thousands of people living in the Mill Road area are being asked for their views on the new proposals for controlling traffic and reducing accidents in Romsey. Past attempts to reduce the high accident rate have failed and the controversial traffic lights at the railway bridge were scrapped after widespread protests and gigantic traffic delays. The new proposals involve road closures and traffic lights at the junction with Tenison Road together with parking restrictions. 84 10 24 p9

1984 10 01

Ninety years ago a shrewd and enterprising woman was born, Mrs Catherine Holland. Her first husband died young and she needed to make a living by supplying yeast which was much in demand among the many local bakers. Although vital it was only used in minute amounts so Mr Holland was able to cycle around making his deliveries. The yeast was supplied in huge sacks and the secret was to keep it fresh by selling it in small amounts at regular intervals. For a long time the business was continued in the family home in Sedgwick Street but during the First World War they got the sole agency for a major brand and moved to Mill Road. After that the business prospered. 84 10 01 p15

1985 05 22

Cambridge has a big drug abuse problem with as many as 800-1,000 young people thought to be dependent on hard drugs. Twenty years ago the 'News' went on the city streets and found drug abusers when the agencies claimed there was no problem. As a result of the publicity Cambridge police set up a drugs squad which led to an Association for the Prevention of Drug Addiction. Now an advice centre, 'The Bridge Project' will be opened in Mill Road. 85 05 22

1985 06 06

Coleridge Community College art students are being commissioned to brighten up the concrete and metalwork of Mill Road Railway Bridge. They will paint a mural depicting a night-and-day changing scene of Cambridge and Romsey featuring some of the better-known buildings of the area. The City Council hopes it will make people respect the environment more and reduce vandalism. The mural will be coated with special anti-graffiti paint. 85 06 06

1985 07 25

Andy Gray can be seen early in the morning on Market Hill unloading four tons of records. It was as an 18-year-old straight out of school that he bought second-hand juke box records and sold them from market stalls. He took £80 on his first day at Cambridge – more money than he had seen in his life before – and opened his first shop in Mill Road. Now Andy's Records is the biggest chain of record shops in the region with a multi-million pound turnover. But he stills serves behind the counter whenever he can. 85 07 25 & 85 07 30

1985 08 22

One of Cambridge's least-known grand houses has come on the market. The eight-bedroom mansion stands in more than three-quarters of an acre of ground and is approached by a long drive and carriage sweep. It has a fine entrance hall, large drawing and dining rooms, butler's pantry and a boiler house. It all sounds like the Newnham home of a Victorian worthy. The actual address is 242 Mill Road. The house is the former vicarage of St Philip's Church and there is planning consent for 17 sheltered homes to be built on the site. 85 08 22

1985 10 15

Pigott's, the family ironmongers which has traded in Cambridge for more than a century, is up for sale. It was in 1863 that John Pigott, son of a Landbeach farmer, opened an ironmongers shop in Sidney Street and a chain of shops were set up in Market Hill, Mill Road, Norfolk Street, Bridge Street and Hills Road. The Sussex Street branch, an established feature of the street since the late 1930s, shut down last September. The business, now in Victoria Road, includes two shops, a warehouse, stores and office. 85 10 15a

1985 11 22

Sally Ann's, Cambridge Salvation Army's highly successful charity shop set up five years ago, is now open for business at its new home on the site of the former Fine Fare supermarket in Mill Road, having moved from the Tesco shop in Regent Street. It sells everything from bric-a-brac to books but also has second-hand furniture such as wardrobes, dressers, beds and three-piece suites. These can be used to assist 'distress cases' where a family urgently needs furniture. About 100 volunteers price the items, launder and iron the clothes and operate a delivery service but more are desperately needed to keep up with all the jobs that need doing. 85 11 22b

1985 11 25

Stanton House residents celebrated its silver jubilee with a ploughman's lunch and old-time music hall. It has 28 bedsits with shared bathrooms, giving elderly people their independence while under the watchful eye of a warden who lives on the premises. It was the first sheltered housing scheme to open in Cambridge and has proved very popular. But the fact that residents are made so comfortable means they live longer and more and homes of this kind are needed. Now Mill Road maternity hospital and St Philip's School in Thoday Street are to be converted. 85 11 25

1985 11 29

Hundreds of Muslims in Cambridge regularly make their way to the mosque, tucked discreetly away near bustling Mill Road. Leading the gathering was the Imam, an Egyptian PhD student in chemistry at Cambridge University. He spoke in Arabic and English, stressing the importance of unity among Muslims. Many of the congregation were of Middle-Eastern origin but there were also several Orientals and English people. They were predominately in the 25 to 40 age range and listened intently. Upstairs a woman followed the service alone, out of sight. After 40 minutes the meeting ended, as it had begun, with a reading from the Koran. 85 11 29b

1985 12 12

The old 100-year-old Kinema bingo hall in Mill Road, which is currently on the market for £170,000, may be restored and turned back into a cinema to meet the fast-growing demand for the showing of old-time and specialist films. The City Council, who owns most of the property nearby, think it could become a major tourist attraction helping to tempt visitors away from the city centre 85 12

1985 12 17

Cambridge's Victoria Cinema has been sold to make way for a new Marks and Spencer store. The prime market square site has housed the city's largest cinema since 1931 and underwent a major refurbishment following a fire two years ago. The sale will leave Cambridge with two other cinemas, the ABC 1 and ABC 2 complex and the Arts Cinema. But there are plans to change the old Kinema bingo hall in Mill Road back into a cinema 85 12 17

1985 12 27

The Kinema in Mill Road was built in 1882 when it was called the Theatre Royal. It was also known as Sturton Town Hall and Gladstone Liberal Club and staged shows until 1885. It was taken over by the Salvation Army who were ousted in 1910 then renamed the Empire, showing variety and pictures until 1916 before changing its name to the Kinema. It was badly supported and became a bingo hall. Now it may be restored as a cinema with a café, bookshop and entertainment complex. It is owned by the Sturton Town Hall Liberal Company, named after Joseph Sturton, a powerful Liberal who bought land in the area in 1897 and built houses for poor people. 85 12 27

1986 01 25

Two new entertainment facilities may be established in Cambridge. A site on the former cattle market has been allocated as a late-night rock music and young people's entertainment venue. It is well away from houses and has ample car parking facilities. The former Kinema cinema on Mill Road is to be surveyed to see if it can be restored to its former Edwardian music hall glory. The Kinema which had been used as a bingo hall, closed down before Christmas 86 01 25a

1986 01 30

Hundreds of Cambridge students are being forced to live in dirty, cramped rooms without heating. Cambridgeshire College of Arts and Technology has had an accommodation problem since the early 70s as language students and young professionals can pay much higher rents. Anger at housing shortages boiled over in 1973 when the health authority hostel at Owlstone Croft was occupied by squatters. Since then CCAT have had temporary use of the Mill Road hospital site but would like to build a hostel for 1,500 students. 86 01 30a

1986 02 03

At the newly-opened Mill Road amusement centre disco music is just audible above the muted electronic sounds and a handful of youths are shoving tokens into luridly-coloured machines. The maximum win is £3, half paid in cash and half in tokens which can be exchanged for prizes. One teenager says it gives him something to do instead of just hanging round the streets while other people pop in for five or ten minutes on their way from work or shopping. But most shoppers rarely glance in beyond the window display of china ornaments. 86 02 03d

1986 03 17

Railway House Association provides accommodation for youngsters in houses on Mill Road bridge – 86 03 17a

1986 03 18

Two city libraries are again under threat of closure, only years after a successful survival battle. Mill Road library is on the wrong side of the railway bridge while Milton Road library is only half-a-mile from Arbury Court. But Councillor Janet Jones describes the plans as disgraceful and says many

children and elderly people will be devastated if Milton Road is closed. However Bar Hill and Milton villages are fast-growing and need some library facilities, a report says. 86 03 18

1986 04 08

Plans for a super cinema complex on the site of the main Post Office sorting office in Mill Road could see six separate cinema units each capable of holding 300 people together with a massive cycle parking space. Thorn-EMI says they need more screens and the Victoria Cinema site is unsuitable for conversion. The Post Office, which is currently building a new sorting office on the Clifton Industrial Estate, already has permission for housing or the site might accommodate Technical College students. 86 04 08

1986 04 10

Cambridge City Council has abandoned its plans for the former Kinema in Mill Road. When the building closed as a bingo hall there were hopes it might be restored and reopened as an Edwardian music hall and become an out-of-centre tourist attraction. Others felt the site could be used for housing or demolished to allow the widening of Mill Road. Now a private entertainments company hope to reopen it as a specialist cinema. 86 04 10

1984 04 22

Campaigners protesting against the threatened closure of Mill Road and Milton Road branch libraries are to lobby councillors when they visit the buildings. A report that says libraries are now in the wrong situation to give the best service to the community. But Mill Road local councillor Anne Campbell said "It is an essentially facility for the area. Many of the present users cannot visit the central library in Lion Yard". 86 04 22

1986 04 25

Two Cambridge libraries threatened with closure are facing their second crisis in eight years. The axe first loomed over Milton Road and Mill Road branches in 1977 but they were saved together with others in Milton and Stapleford. Now a report says they are old and in the wrong position to provide the best service. But Cambridgeshire Labour councillors have started a campaign to save them and Alliance councillors are organising a petition against closure. 86 04 25

1986 06 25

Mill Road could do with more shops, residents say. It is an important shopping centre especially for convenience foods. Key groups such as the elderly, people with young children and those without cars depend on it. But many are dissatisfied with the range of goods available. During the past few years a number have closed down or been put to other uses. One has become a one-armed bandit amusement arcade. 86 06 25

1986 09 04

Midwife Phyllis Baker started as a trainee at Mill Road in 1940. Then the hospital mainly catered for geriatrics though there was a maternity ward which was full of pregnant evacuees. In 1958 she became a community midwife when a high percentage of deliveries were at home and mothers only went to hospital if there was something wrong. Mill Road is a very happy hospital and she is happy to have been associated with it for so long. Now staff are compiling a photographic album of all the 2,001 babies she has delivered during her career 86 09 04

1986 12 07

Squatters at the old Salvation Army shop in Mill Road doze on sofas and chairs by the log fire or in sleeping bags in the eaves of the roof, and when they need a toilet they wander to the public lavatories just down the road. The squat is a protest to high-light the social depression, unemployment and lack of facilities for the young. Anarchist slogans have been painted boldly over the shop front replacing the old religious messages. 86 10 07a

1986 12 27

Peppercorns health food and delicatessen, which has expanded remarkably quickly from small beginnings in Cherry Hinton, has moved into larger premises in Mill Road. The shop has shelves of natural foods, freshly-roasted coffees, 50 types of cheese and the exotic delights of houmous and taramasalata together with quiches, pizzas and even vegetarian scotch eggs. 86 10 27

1987 01 26

Cambridge councillors have abandoned plans to buy the old Kinema cinema and bingo hall in Mill Road because repairing the century-old building would cost too much. It had been hoped to restore it to its former glory as a Victorian entertainments palace but a structural survey has revealed more than 40 major faults. Some of the walls bulge, the building needs a complete new roof and all the woodwork would have to be renewed. Now it might be demolished to widen the road. 87 01 26

1987 03 24

The Railway House Association stands as a chilling monument to the suffering, heartache and degradation inflicted on youngsters in the Cambridge area. Many of those who have sought sanctuary have been subjected to physical violence, neglect, mental abuse and sexual crimes. In the last year the Mill Road hostel, which consists of three houses divided into 12 flats, has taken in 26 young people who might otherwise have been sleeping rough. But another 60 have had to be turned away. 87 03 24a & b

1987 07 29

Cambridge Light Blue Trading Company was opened on Mill Road in 1933, its name an indication of the all-pervasive influence of the University. Then it dealt mainly in small loans to citizens. Now known as Cambridge Credit one of its main activities is secured loans of from £1,000 to £100,000 which are guaranteed by the borrower's property. But they would rather turn down an application than see the loan become an insupportable commitment. It has also entered the very competitive vehicle leasing business 87 07 29a & b

1987 11 03

Peppercorns delicatessen and health food business began two years ago with an idea and a sandwich delivery round. Edmund and Christopher Bliss opened a shop in Cherry Hinton but it wasn't large enough, so when the chance came to take on a shop in Mill Road they were eager to do so. Now they have opened another in Grantchester Road. As well as coffee and bread they sell cheese such as Cornish Yarg and English Cheddar which at £1.10p per lb is a popular buy with students. 87 11 03a.

1988 01 02

City Bargains in Mill Road is shutting up shop, closing a chapter in Cambridge history. It is one of the last traditional general stores where even the prices are rung up in pounds, shillings and pence and converted by mental arithmetic to decimal. They sold most things, from a packet of pins to a pram and were renowned for supplying anything buyers wanted. Former market stall holder Dennis Capon and his wife, who have run it for 27 years, have happy memories of their customers: "They'd come here for a laugh and a chat and got to know us". 88 01 02a

1988 01 20

Futons, the Japanese form of bedding, is gaining in popularity. Now a new shop, Futopia, has opened in Mill Road 88 01 20a

1988 06 23

The first residents have moved into Ditchburn Place, the former Mill Road Maternity Hospital which is being turned into an assortment of 100 flats and houses for young single people and elderly couples. A small number of units have been built for people who have moved out of psychiatric institutions. When complete next year it will incorporate a laundry, restaurant, coffee bar and day centre for the frail and elderly. It is a very attractive scheme, offering a higher standard than the private sector could have afforded and is unlikely to be repeated in current financial circumstances. 88 06 13a # c.37.9

The very latest, sophisticated machinery is being installed in the Post Office's new sorting office in Clifton Road. Mill Road became a Mechanised Letter Office in 1972 but its technology is now in need of replacement. Conditions for the 650 staff are cramped and noisy. Now high-speed sorting machines will hold 16,000 items an hour and Mill Road will be refurbished to act as delivery centre for mail coming into Cambridge. 88 06 23a

1988 09 07

Mill Road sewer collapse, hole disrupts traffic – 88 09 07

1988 09 26

Mill Road residents want more corner shops and fewer take-aways; history – 88 09 26 & a

1989 01 19

William Hunt opened a shop on Mill Road in 1918 as a centre for jewellery repairs. He then sold watches and clocks together with a few sports trophies. As these became popular he decided to concentrate on this side of the business, together with some engraving. Mr Hunt died about 22 years ago and the shop was continued by his daughter, Joyce. She came on a temporary basis in 1937 and has stayed ever since. Now she is retiring and there is no one in the family to carry it on. 89 01 19a

1989 07 08

Masked council workers have been sent to fumigate a Cambridge house and clear out the debris left by squatters. Graffiti had been daubed on the walls, rotting food and mouldy bread litters the floors and rubbish was strewn everywhere. There was a risk of rats and fleas taking over the empty council house in Mill Road. Neighbours are relieved the squatters have moved out: they had been playing music and drums in the garden all night, and throwing bottles out of the window. 89 07 08

1989 07 24

Mill Road residents protest about Confidential Bookshop sex shop – 89 07 24

1989 09 20

Mill Road sorting office may be used for low-cost housing – 89 09 20a

1989 11 09

Coun David Wolfe is to launch a campaign to stop the closure of Mill Road library as part of a County Council economy drive. Cambridge was one of the first towns in the country to have a local free library service. Mill Road library has served the community for 92 years and is a valuable resource. With the opening of city council housing schemes at Ditchburn Place and Thoday Street increasing the numbers of elderly people and young families moving into the area it is a particularly convenient service, he says – 89 11 09c

1989 11 21

Co-op chiefs have been forced to sell off the freehold of their Burleigh Street store to fend off a cash crisis. The Victorian building has been sold to a London Investment Company and they will lease back the premises. The Co-op began trading in Burleigh Street in 1908 but has been hit by soaring interest rates on loans taken out to cover major projects such as the massive Beehive Centre. It has already put branches up for sale in Mill Road, Milton Road, Waterbeach, Duxford & Cherry Hinton. 89 11 21

1989 11 28

The new South East Cycleway from Market Square to Cherry Hinton follows quiet back roads, avoiding the nightmarish Mill Road which can reduce cyclists to a nervous wreck. It includes a new £2million bridge across the railway near Cambridge station. This is a striking structure with a triangular tower from which cables support a cycle and walkway fully protected from the elements by

a transparent polycarbonate tube. It is thought to be the longest bridge of its type in Western Europe.
89 11 28a, 29

1989 12 12

Mill Road and the Broadway are a convenient place for Christmas shopping with many cycle shops supplying everything from BMXs to tandems. There is an extensive choice of clothes stores offering everything from ski and leisure wear to glittering ball gowns, from distinctive menswear to the popular new 'rave' clothing. There are futon sofas, Magimix blenders, video cassettes for under £10 or the most sophisticated hi-fi audio systems. The many discount stores and secondhand shops have inexpensive gifts. 89 12 12d

1989 12 20

Ditchburn Place, the former Mill Road Workhouse celebrates transformation into home for the elderly and meeting place for the community – 89 12 20a

1989 12 22

Mill Road library reprieved from closure – 89 12 22a

1990 01 26

The City council are persuading private house owners not to leave their property vacant. Some had been left properties by an elderly relative, others bought houses for an investment in the property boom, then found they could not sell them. Police houses in Girton stood empty for three years and Ministry of Defence houses in Radegund Road that were empty for years have not been sold off by the army. Flats above the old Co-op in Mill Road are also being used to provide low cost housing for council tenants. 90 01 26b

1990 05 09

Armed robbery at TSB bank, Mill Road – 90 05 09